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Cuba

Castro Inaugurates Neurological Center

FL0103190789 Havana Television Cubana Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Speech by President Fidel Castro at the inauguration ceremony of the Ibero-American Neurological Center for Transplants and Rehabilitation in Havana on 26 February—recorded]

[Text] Distinguished guests, comrades: I have taken into account the fact that today is a relatively cold day and we are outside. Some of the guests may be surprised to hear that we are talking about cold here. Well, yes sir, it is cold here. [laughter] Nobody knows [words indistinct] but it is cold and the humidity is high. In addition, it is Sunday, the day created for people to rest. We are here inaugurating this center on a cold Sunday evening. I say all this because it is obvious that speeches here—except those delivered by Hilda [Molina, director of the center], which are very good—need to be brief.

As Comrade Hilda Molina explained, the center they named Ibero-American Neurological Center for Transplants and Rehabilitation is being inaugurated. They discussed extensively what this center should be called and finally named it this. Anyone could think that we are inaugurating, this evening, a large installation with equipment worth millions of dollars. This is not the case. We are inaugurating a small installation with equipment worth some tens of thousands of dollars. Perhaps later on the center will have equipment worth some hundreds of thousand between the ones already in place and others being purchased. [Words indistinct] with a new laboratory center built here for rats are as you know and the first (?monkeys)—because they don't have many yet—but there is an area for research animals.

I was asking the comrade, Hilda, what are you going to show here tonight [corrects himself] or this evening since you do not have many things to show here? Anyone who looks at this center from a distance could say: Is it worth all this racket to inaugurate a center? I told Hilda: Talk to the guests about the ideas and concepts behind this effort. I believe this is the most important thing and what actually makes us have big hopes for this center. This center is not isolated, of course. It is associated with one of our best hospitals. I don't say the best hospital because this can always hurt others. It is also going to be associated with another one of our best hospitals which is the Cimed [expansion not known]. I have told Comrade Hilda that we should not work with the Hermanos Ameijeiras Hospital alone. The Ameijeiras Hospital is our best known hospital because of its equipment and resources. We have other very good hospitals. They are not too far away from here. Cooperation can also be established between this institution and those hospitals because of the conditions that exist there.

In addition, this center has special features. Research, diagnostic, and surgical activities are conducted in a single center. I am not a specialist in this matter but I have been told that one of the problems in the world is that these activities—research, clinical, and surgical activities—are conducted separately. All this was put together when this center was created. Thus, there will be no separation. Sometimes this brings conflicts and contradictions. I believe that research—provided it is conducted under strict conditions—should be put into practice in diagnosis and also in surgery when surgery is indicated.

There is another house next to this one. It is the clinic and rehabilitation center. They discussed [words indistinct] and acquired the property next door. They acquired it from the CNIC [National Scientific Research Center]. They discussed how to distribute the space. A number of beds were suggested. I saw that they had a lot of interest [words indistinct] on those beds. They were also going to install a library and a classroom. I suggested that perhaps another space could be found for the library and the classroom considering the interest that existed on the number of beds. I suggested to them the number of beds be increased. Finally, the area next door is going to have up to 18 beds and a rehabilitation center.

This is very important. They explained that sometimes people from abroad or from far away places in our country come here. If they are not going to be using the beds for surgery patients, they could stay here during the rehabilitation period. Beds for surgery patients of the Hermanos Ameijeiras Hospital and those beds we are also going to have at the Cimed will be used better. As a matter of fact, the Cimed is being expanded now. It is going to have new wards and room for more patients. We could also use a number of beds for activities related to the center.

The project has not been completed but we have a good area set aside here. There is enough space to build a hospital if the progress of research justifies it, if the development of our work makes it necessary. This is why I say construction of a specialized hospital in this area depends on the results of this research center. We will use other hospitals for now. We have the space here. It is a very valuable space. We can say that our country has a scientific area in this zone. It is not dedicated to medicine alone but it is mainly a scientific-medical area. It would be more correct to say it is a scientific-medical area [Castro corrects gender].

Here we have CNIC, one of the first research centers developed by the revolution. At the time it was created it was called the National Scientific Research Center. It sounded as if there was only one. The country has over 100 scientific research centers of various types, but this one has played a very important role. This center is operated by the University of Havana. It has developed important research, some of it in the field of neurological sciences. I do not say I know about all of the research, but

I do know, for example, that they developed medicid [not further identified]. They developed neuronics [not further identified]. I do not know if they were the ones who also developed the neurosid [not further identified]. These machines are pretty advanced and can be considered to be among the best in this field. We only had one problem. Sometimes, the research center developed equipment and it took 10, 12, or 15 years to produce it. The medicid began to be developed over 12 years ago. I do not know if I would be mistaken if I said 15 years ago. This was done when no similar equipment existed anywhere else. A lot of time goes by from the time a machine is developed to the time it is produced en mass. We are now producing medicids en mass and, of course, they have been improved.

This happened with the SUMA, the Ultra Microanalytic System. It took many years to be produced. It was the first of its class in the world. I understand it still is. It took many years from the time the machine was developed to the time it was produced en mass. This is one of the problems we are discussing with research centers. It is not their fault. We are also discussing the various factors that have to do with the production of these machines.

Neuronics are more recent. I remember that I heard about neuronics for the first time about 31 months ago. A little time has been wasted in getting mass production started. Some of these machines, of course, need to be put into use. Some of these programs cannot even be carried out if a number of machines are not available and are not put into use so that the programs are improved and we can determine for sure that the machine is capable of detecting and diagnosing certain types of problems according to certain parameters. This happened with medicid and neuronics. These pretty sophisticated machines were developed here at the Center for Scientific Research. This center has over 25 years of experience and has a very competent and enthusiastic collective. It is next to this center.

The Genetics Engineering and Biotechnology Center is over there. It is a new center. It is a great one. Who knows how many tens of millions [currency not specified] were invested there. The Genetics Engineering and Biotechnology Center is located on 16 hectares and has tens of thousands of square meters of building area. It has very sophisticated equipment. Suffice it to say that they have two of the most modern electronic microscopes. The Cenid also has them. They are the mass spectrometer.... [leaves sentence unfinished] They have two or three different names. I don't want to discuss them further because [words indistinct] I remember when each of those pieces of equipment were purchased. These research centers have excellent equipment.

Further down there is the Immunoessay Research Center. It is new. It also has very good equipment and very dedicated personnel. The staff of these new centers is characterized as being fully dedicated to scientific research night and day, without any rest, because of the enormous importance of the work. This is based on the idea that if people's lives are going to depend on those efforts, not a single minute can be wasted. [Words indistinct] these centers impose a very big moral obligation because the lives and health of many people depend on them. This principle began to be applied since another center around here, the Biology Center, was created. This is where interpheron [not further identified] was first produced. At that time, there was a lot of talk of the possible effect of interpheron in the fight against cancer. This encouraged a lot of the center's workers and created a tradition that has extended to other centers. The Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology Center was created with that tradition.

This small center is surrounded by some giants in the scientific field. The important thing is not what this center can do alone but what it can do with the help of other centers: the Cenid, Genetic Engineering, Biology Center, the Immunoessay Center. All this gives it enormous possibilities. This is what concerns us the most, how these centers can cooperate with each other. This center does not belong to a company, while another one to another company, and another one to another one. Rather, all these centers belong to a single corporation which is the corporation of the people of Cuba. They are not going to work to compete with each other although they can emulate among each other. They should mainly work in close cooperation.

I believe that one of the qualities of Comrade Hilda Molina, in addition to her outstanding scientific skills, is that she knows how to ask others for cooperation and promote cooperation among others. For example, I suggested she contact Cenpalab [expansion not known]. This is also a new center which is being finished. It is a laboratory for the production of animals that are free of diseases or a center for the production of laboratory animals. It is a large center, an important center, also with very dedicated people. They immediately contacted them and Cenpalab is willing to provide the resources this center may need for its research.

Comrade Hilda Molina has gotten the help of all these institutions and of others that have nothing to do with medicine as in the case of Cubanacan. A long list of collaborators this center has was justly mentioned. Cubanacan is an organization that takes care of diplomats, gives attention to diplomats, serves diplomats and the Palace of Convention, and many other things. It has experienced and skilled construction workers. They carry out very good quality work. A house was found here and it had to be remodeled and turned into a laboratory. Who was going to do that? A large construction enterprise? Large construction enterprises are not good for this. They are good perhaps to build a big factory or a big center such as Genetic Engineering but not to fix a house. Nevertheless, the people from Cubanacan are experts in fixing houses. When the other house was found, Cubanacan's cooperation was sought also. It has helped a lot.

I believe that one of the things our cadres should develop is the ability to get the cooperation of others. I have asked myself: Why is there so much enthusiasm in helping the Neurological Center for Transplants and Rehabilitation? Half jokingly and half seriously I have said: Look Hilda, maybe many of these people think they someday they may need this center's services and this is why they help with so much enthusiasm.

This is what I can tell you about the [words indistinct]. This center is simply something that is starting out but it is starting out very well. It is supported by very strong pillars. I could add that these centers are not the only ones located here but, as I said, the Cimed is also located around here. This hospital conducts important research. The Institute of Tropical Medicine is being completed near here. The Victoria de Giron Medical School is located near here. The new biology school is going to be built close to here. Finlay Hospital is not far away from here. This is a great hospital in our capital. A good maternity hospital is located a little further. A children's hospital—the most modern one in the country—is being built across from here. The best opthalmology hospital in the country is located a little further. It already has an ocular microsurgery center. The best orthopedic hospital in the country is located not far from here. Without any argument it is a great orthopedic center also with great advances. The capital's west hospital is going to be built next to the School of Medical Sciences, a hospital in the west side. It is going to be started within 1 year, perhaps 2 years. We have delayed it a little to be able to adjust the program better. It is going to be a very modern hospital.

Thus, a large number of medical institutions and a large number of scientific and biological institutions are gathered here. Our idea is that all these institutions should cooperate with each other, that one day they can organize as a front, that they meet systematically to advance by supporting each other.

I can assure you that there is great enthusiasm among all these scientific centers' workers—an enormous enthusiasm. I have witnessed it. Based on this, I believe this center's outlook is good. I repeat, this is a center that is just starting out. [Words indistinct] the practical application of all the result of their research.

This institution is of great humane importance. We all know that the guests present here are men of science, that man has been able to do little so far about human tragedy and a number of illnesses. There are a few of these types of illnesses but, in general, progress is being made.

One could not speak of heart transplants some 20 or 30 years ago. This would have appeared to be a fantasy or a crazy thing. It was thought that if the heart was touched, the patient would die. You can now see what is being done in the area of transplants. They started with other organs: first with kidneys, later with the heart, now it is heart and lungs, or lungs, liver, pancreas, everything, [words indistinct] (?corneas). Transplants are becoming a common thing. It is something that would have been considered a fantasy some 30 or 40 years ago.

At that time, an individual who underwent an appendectomy was left in bed for 7 days and was not allowed to move. That time is not far away. Things that appeared to be a fantasy 30 or 40 years ago are a reality today because of all these new medicines used to solve the problems of organ rejection. These are extraordinary advances.

However, not much progress had been made in this field of application of medicine to certain neurological problems. There are problems with Parkinson's disease. It is controlled with certain medicines but there are times when medicines do not help and it turns into a dramatic situation, a terrible tragedy. There are other kinds of chronic nervous diseases. There are problems of circulatory disorders, brain disorders with its dramatic consequences. This is an area in which much progress has not been made. There are the problems of hemiplegia and, above all, the problems with marrow. We can all understand how dramatic they are. What an extraordinary thing would be to be able to make progress in the fight against those problems. This is a subject that needs to be dealt with carefully. We have to be responsible. We have to tell patients that we are optimistic and we believe that we can overcome..... [changes thought] Progress can be made in the fight against these problems but this is not an easy fight and immediate results cannot be expected. it would be a sad thing to make many people hopeful and then results cannot be put into practice immediately.

I say this because, although they have not been highly publicized, I know current activities have been made known in many hospitals, at the Julio Diaz Hospital, for example. I know that many patients are very hopeful. There are many patients with Parkinson's disease, many patients. There are many patients with hemiplegia problems. They have become very hopeful with the sole news that there is a center that is going to conduct research on this. We have to be very careful. It is preferable that we obtain results that can be applied soon rather than to create great hopes on things that cannot be applied immediately. This is why this subject has to be dealt with very carefully.

We can say that serious work is going to be performed in the search for the solution to those problem. We are hopeful for the results. A lot is ahead. In the same way that transplant matters seemed to be a dream, perhaps we can obtain results in this field in the future of things that may seem to be a dream today. This can be achieved through biology, biotechnology, substances that actually encourage and activate growth and can help in the solution of these neurological problems.

This is very new and we do not intend to say that our country should be given the credit for this. Other men in other countries such as the Mexicans, Swedes, and some

Americans were pioneers in these neurological transplant and rehabilitation matters. What we intend to do is conduct a systematic [words indistinct] and speed up the [words indistinct] in that direction. The first transplant operation or [words indistinct] of—I don't know what they call it—suprarenal glands, was conducted using this experience and some prominent foreign figures who helped us.

It is very pleasing to have among us the patient that underwent that first transplant. I remember that around those days, when the report was released, I visited him at the hospital. Later, I also saw the videocassette which showed his health condition before he underwent treatment. It showed what he could and could not do, what his physical condition was, the results later on, and above all, after rehabilitation. I can attest to it because I have seen it and have observed it well; the results are truly amazing. People who virtually could not walk now can swim, play basketball, and do a number of things that one could not have imagined. They are truly encouraging results. I highlight this because there are conflicting news reports. There are times in which they are optimistic and other times when they are pessimistic. There are questions whether there are positive or negative results. In sum, the results we have seen are very encouraging as far Parkinson's disease is concerned. They are very encouraging.

All the before and after data, videocassettes, photos, have been gathered. Of course, rehabilitation is playing a very important role. It is not a matter of performing surgery on a person and forgetting about him. I believe rehabilitation is going to play a very important role in all this. This is the case not only in [words indistinct] cases, but in Parkinson's disease and other cases such as the ones Comrade Hilda Molina explained here.

Some people are present here with hemiplegia problems caused by different things. Results are truly encouraging. They are encouraging. People who didn't even have the slightest feeling in their extremities, in a matter of hours or days have begun to experience feeling their limbs. There have been notable advances in the techniques which are being used. I believe they are the first ones of their kind. The repertoire of resources ahead of us is far from being depleted. With the operation, [word indistinct] tissues are transferred to irrigate those affected areas. I have been following this research closely and I can say results are truly encouraging. Our scientists's enthusiasm and the (?confidence) in the results they may obtain through their work are justified. This is something that is just starting out.

I do not share some of the comments made which I have learned about through international news cables. There are some pessimistic people who tend to disregard these techniques. From what we have seen, our impression is completely the opposite and we truly see large possibilities. We are optimistic in this sense.

Comrade Hilda was kind enough to [words indistinct] my cooperation to the center and highlight merits. I truly believe that my merits in all this are very modest. I should say this with all justice. Yes, I am interested in the subject. I have curiosity on the subject. I try to follow it closely. All I do is to attempt to support the effort a group of comrades have been making. Many of these ideas were their ideas. The idea of creating this Ibero-American center was theirs. All we did was support the idea, cooperate with the idea. I say this because justice has to be made to the ones who are dedicated to this task. They are modest and do not talk about their merits. I am the one who should talk about the merits of those who work here, at the Biology Center, Genetic Engineering, Cenid, Immunoessay, Ameijeiras, Cimed, everywhere.

They are making a big effort. A lot of the time this effort is made quietly and in an anonymous way. The only merit, if any, that can be attributed to me is the merit of having confidence in what they are doing and give them maximum support. This is not a merit. On the contrary, it turns into somewhat of a pleasure; it pleases me to support this activity.

I toured this area today. A sports area was built for exercises and sports for all these research centers around here. I said: All that has turned out prettier than we imagined. I criticized that it was going too slow. They really have built it very well. I think they have discriminated against women. They have two gyms, one for men and another one for women. They gave the best house to the men. It has a springboard and everything and the one for women didn't turn out well. Maybe in the future something better can be done there—a good swimming pool, some courts for volleyball, basketball, and a track.

These scientists who devote endless hours to research at the laboratory have to disconnect themselves once in a while and exercise. They need to be well fed. We are trying to build housing around here so that they can live close to the centers. We want for them—if they want to—to establish a practice for them to exercise or play sports at least an hour a day. If they don't want to we are not going to force them but we are going to force them to interrupt their work at the center. They can go and listen to music if they want to. If they don't want to play sports, they can listen to music and relax. We are talking about researchers who work 10, 12, 13, 14 hours. We are concerned about their health. We are talking about dedicated people.

We are very pleased to see how this scientific-technical complex is being created in this area. I can truly say that I have a lot of confidence and certainty on the great results they are going to have in this and other fields for the benefit of our people and other people. I believe the research collective and workers.... [changes thought] They are not all researchers. The one who cooks at the center is important, very important. It can be terrible for the research center if we have great scientists and a bad cook. We value, a great deal, the work of all, of the one

who takes care of the garden, cooks, cleans, assists. The success of the institution depends on all. The work of the rest could not be possible without their work.

Multi-assignment is also practiced here. Scientists clean their own laboratories. They clean material and do other things. Multi-assignment is practiced here. The bus driver who picks workers up works with a truck, at the garden, or at the warehouse when he arrives at the center later. Nobody is left without something to do during the day. This has made it possible to reduce the workers' payroll considerably in all these places. This is why I say these institutions are model institutions in every sense. All this movement, this work style grows, expands in our research centers. I am usually in touch with these centers and I see that everyday there is a greater enthusiasm, a greater interest in what they are doing.

I believe that someday the spirit that prevails in these centers will be the same spirit prevailing in all the research centers in the country. Since I promised I was going to be brief and I talked about the cold—I could also talk about appetite and some other things because there is going to be a small reception—I cannot end my remarks without addressing all the outstanding and prominent visitors that accompany us this evening [words indistinct] to thank them for their attendance and their cooperation. We are certain that this neurology center event will be very useful and we will be able to obtain fruitful benefits. We are pleased to be able to share with you the hopes of this evening. At the same time, we ask and expect the greatest cooperation in this task that is not inspired by economic or profit goals but basically it is inspired by humanitarian goals. Thank you very much. [applause]

UNHRC Extends Deadline To Submit Drafts

FL0203160089 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1502 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] The UN Human Rights Commission [UNHRC] has extended the deadline for the presentation of resolution drafts on several points of the agenda, an assessment of a report on Cuba, among them. The commission session's chairman, Marc Bossuyt from Belgium, reported that several delegations asked for the deadline to be extended. The deadline was originally set for today and it was extended for early in the afternoon tomorrow.

He also reported that the United States has not decided yet if it is going to submit its announced resolution draft on Cuba before the Human Rights Commission as it has done in previous years. Latin American observers agree that Washington's hesitation is due to the fact that neither the report submitted by the mission that traveled to Cuba nor the examination of the document by the commission constitute a basis for an anti-Cuban draft.

No Consensus Reached on Human Rights Report

FL0203191089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Report by special correspondent Pedro Martinez Pirez from Geneva]

[Text] Latin America and the Third World obtained an important victory at the UN Human Rights Commission today with the approval, through majority vote, of the L23 Resolution on the foreign debt and its relation with basic human rights—that is, economic, social, and cultural rights. The Latin American and Third World victory is even greater inasmuch as, from now on, the foreign debt topic will be included in the UN 46th session agenda as long as the Third World's indebtedness situation persists.

The result of the vote was 30 in favor, only 5 against, and 6 abstentions. By the way, the United States and its main allies: FRG, UK, Canada, and Japan were defeated in this vote. Evidence that the Western block is not united here in Geneva is that Belgium, Italy, France, Spain, Portugal, and Sweden abstained and a difficult debate took place. Representatives from Venezuela and Peru clashed with the ambassadors of the UK and the FRG.

The deadline to submit resolution drafts on topic 11-A was extended until tomorrow, Friday, 1300 Geneva time. This topic deals with the report on Cuba discussed in the plenary session during this 45th UN session. According to reports, the extension was granted because a consensus has not been reached among the 43 members of the commission regarding how to close this chapter which was opened last year at the initiative of Cuba as a result of U.S. maneuvers in the commission. A group was invited to travel to our country.

It was learned through diplomatic sources that the United States is pressuring the rest of the Western countries to impose a formula on the commission which would extend the mandate of the group that traveled to Cuba last year and, in this way, give the impression of a diplomatic victory after its two defeats in 1987 and 1988. There is no unanimity among Western countries and the United States does not have a majority in the commission to impose its will as it has been shown in the vote of numerous resolutions, including the most recent one on the foreign debt.

Castro Message to Ceausescu, Dascalescu

AU2802153989 Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian 26 Feb 89 p 5

[Cable from Fidel Castro Ruz, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party and President of the State Council and Council of Ministers, to Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu and Prime Minister Constantin Dascalescu]

[Text] To Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, RCP secretary general and president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, and Comrade Constantin Dascalescu, prime minister of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Romania:

On behalf of the party, the government, and all our people, I take pleasure in expressing thanks for your fraternal congratulations on the 30th anniversary of the victory of our revolution.

In the desire that the unshakable relations between our countries will continue to strengthen, and with the determination to work for a world of peace, social justice, and progress for all nations, I want to express my highest consideration.

Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the State Council and Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba

UN Mission Leader on Results in Angola
FL0103030289 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Brazilian General Pericles Pereira, UN representative at the verification commission in Angola, told our reporters some of the aspects of his work and the role played by the commission he heads which is made up of 10 countries, including Spain, Argentina, Algeria, and the People's Republic of the Congo.

[Begin Pericles recording] The progress made by the mission is very good because we have the complete cooperation of the Cuban and Angolan authorities. We are optimistic about the results of the meeting because on 1 April the official withdrawal begins. Presently we have a prewithdrawal, as you well know. This is a joint commission on the diplomatic level, but we have another joint commission at the military leader level. Therefore, at these meetings we have the opportunity to discuss all the problems that may arise. The joint commission at the military level is composed of General Rodiles of the Cuban Army, General Gato of the Angolan Army, and us with the head of the UN commission.

I worked for the United Nations during the Israeli-Arab conflict but that was a situation entirely different. You will have the opportunity to see, in a few minutes, that we will count the number of people leaving today. Later, we have to report this to the United Nations. Also, we give Gen Rodiles and Gen Gato a certificate listing everyone who leaves and everyone who arrives in Angola.

We represent the United Nations as a whole, not just as parts interested in the peace process. [end recording]

Delegation of Angolan Vigilance Committees Visits
FL0203170089 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1524 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] A delegation of the Vigilance Committees of the People's Republic of Angola is visiting Santiago de Cuba. The delegation is presided over by (Alejandro Lemus), top representative of the organization. During its stay in the hero city, the mission will tour the Segundo Frente and San Luis Municipalities and will meet with grass root leaders from the CDR [Committees for the Defense of the Revolution] and representatives of the People's Government and the Interior Ministry.

Commentary Blames Venezuelan Problems on IMF
FL0103185289 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Dozens of deaths, hundreds of people injured and detained, demonstrations, looting, riots, violence, tanks with troops in the streets, the closing of schools, a curfew, and the suppression of constitutional guarantees is what Venezuela has experienced during the past few hours. This has not happened in the country since 1960. President Carlos Andres Perez described the acts as incredible national tragedies.

What caused this spectacular social uprising? It was caused by nothing more than IMF formulas applied to very wretched Latin American economies. However, did the Venezuelan Government have another alternative to raising prices for gasoline, certain food items, and public services?

President Carlos Andres Perez did not think so. He felt that the only way to receive fresh currency which would facilitate economic recovery since Venezuela has drained its international reserves, was to accept the IMF's recommendations. According to the leader, a treaty with the IMF was inevitable.

Considering the current, specific situation of the continent, perhaps President Perez is right. Perhaps he does not have the political room to opt for other measures but this is not the time to judge that particular problem.

The important thing is to stress that each day is more difficult—so as to not say impossible—because the Latin American people physically suffer the dramatic consequences of policies on which they were not even consulted.

President Perez himself acknowledged that there is a great deal of frustration and resentment because of closed policies created by previous governments. The leader was critical of the IMF but, at the same time, he defended its program of economic adjustment. To Perez, this means safeguarding the peace and patrimony of Venezuelans. There are reasons to assume that this could also be the road to political death.

U.S. Church Official Visits Havana Second Time

FL0103130989 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Cardinal Bernard Francis Law, Boston archbishop, is in Havana at the invitation of the Cuban Episcopal Conference. This is the second visit of Cardinal Law. In 1985, he was part of the first delegation of the U.S. Catholic Conference that visited Cuba.

Colombian Diplomat Says Consensus Still Possible

FL0103212889 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2056 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] The possibility of reaching a consensus as a final solution to the matter of human rights in Cuba is not out of the question. This was said today in Geneva to PRENSA LATINA by Colombian diplomat Rafael Rivas Posada.

The Colombian ambassador to the UN Human Rights Commission was a member of the committee that visited our country in September of last year at the invitation of our government. Rivas Posada said that despite the extremely elevated tone used by some of the delegations while giving their speeches on the report submitted by the mission that went to Cuba, there is still a possibility of reaching an agreement to determine the manner with which the human rights issue will be dealt in the future.

Upon referring to the atmosphere that existed during the meeting to examine the report on Cuba, the Colombian diplomat said that an energetic tone was used and that some of the speeches surprised many of the delegations with their excessive aggressiveness.

Rivas Posada said that it is still possible to reach an agreement on this issue because many of the delegations are working on this matter and none of the delegations has stated that there is a limit with regards to reaching an agreement. He said that it is still premature to say what characteristics the consensus might have, but that many of the delegations are interested in continuing the spirit of international cooperation that characterized the mission that worked in Cuba.

Anything that contributes to attaining this spirit could be the foundation for a consensus, said Rivas Posada. His statements were made shortly after the meeting, which examined the report on the visit to Cuba, ended.

Rodriguez Presides Over GDR Cooperation Talks

FL0203130989 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, and Horst Soelle, deputy chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers, presided over the meeting of the joint Cuba-GDR cooperation commission.

At the beginning of the meeting, the Cuban vice president welcomed the members of the commission and he stressed that this 15th session is being held in the year in which we mark the 25th anniversary of the start of cooperation relations between the two countries.

For his part, Deputy Chairman Soelle expressed his satisfaction with being in our country and he expressed his appreciation for Cuba's hospitality.

During the working session, the two delegations discussed cooperation and scientific-technical exchange, especially in the areas of food, construction materials, electronics, basic industries, and others.

Valladares Fined in Case Against Portuguese

FL0103133789 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] The counterrevolutionary of Cuban origin, Armando Valladares, was sanctioned with a fine of $180 in a trial that involved two Portuguese journalists. Valladares, who is now U.S. representative to the UN Human Rights Commission, had accused the journalists of publishing material against him.

The Portuguese journalists described Valladares in their article as a stateless person, member of the Batista police, terrorist, a man who pretended to be paralyzed, and a dubious poet.

During the trial, which lasted more than a year, it was demonstrated that the Portuguese journalists were far from defaming him and acted with the intent to inform public opinion.

Dominican Republic

Balaguer's 27 Feb Speech Evades Main Problems

FL0203143989 Santo Domingo Tele-Radio Noticias Television and Radio Network in Spanish 0914 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] The Dominican Workers Party [PTD] has said that the president of the Republic, in the speech he gave on Monday [27 Feb], was not able to convince the country that the policy he has been applying is the best for the nation.

Jose Gonzalez Espinoza, president, and (Estevan Diaz Aje), secretary general of the PTD, said that Dr Joaquin Balaguer's speech to the National Assembly did not address the country's main problems that the government has not been able to resolve. The leftist leaders said that he [Balaguer] avoided subjects such as the high inflation that is affecting the country, the low results of the sugar harvest, the energy deficit, and other problems.

Jorge Blanco Trial Suspended; Official Absent

FL0103200489 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1701 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] The judge of the Seventh Criminal Court, Dr Juan Maria Severino, today suspended the trial against former President Salvador Jorge Blanco, who is accused of [word indistinct] and of having ordered inflated purchases in favor of the Armed Forces and the national police. Severino suspended the process at 1115 today citing the absence of the Public Ministry representative.

The trial process began with the absence of the main defendant, Salvador Jorge Blanco. After noting the absence of the former leader, Severino asked that the representative of the Public Ministry, [first name indistinct] Duran Fajardo, demonstrate a copy of the papers with which Jorge Blanco was cited as the main defendant. After looking through his papers, Duran Fajardo could not find a copy of Jorge Blanco's citation and he asked for 10 minutes to look for it in the office of the national district attorney, Dr Alexis Joaquin Castillo. Judge Severino decided to give Duran Fajardo 15 minutes.

After that time passed and Duran Fajardo did not return to the hearings, Judge Severino announced his decision to suspend the trial due to the absence of the Public Ministry representative.

The trial, which was not attended by Jorge Blanco and the other defendants—(Eliodoro Del Roa Contreras) and Manuel Antonio Cuervo Gomez [former Armed Forces secretary during Jorge Blanco's administration], as well as others—was being held in the courtroom of the First Criminal Court in the Palace of Justice of Ciudad Nueva. This courtroom was selected because of its size since the hearing room in which Judge Severino normally holds court is very small.

At least 37 of the 50 witnesses who were formally summoned by the national district attorney were expected to attend the trial. However, the number of witnesses who were present was less than expected.

The hearing hall was packed by the public. Also present at the trial were Jorge Blanco's attorneys, his wife—Dona (Acela Mera de Jorge)—Dr (Marino Vinicio Dicho Castillo), and others. The civil side was represented at the trial by state attorney (Manuel Tapia Final) and Dr Jose Rodriguez [last name indistinct].

Audit Reveals Special Jorge Blanco Account

FL0203181789 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1209 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] The Republic's comptroller general, Jose Antonio Guzman Alvarez, revealed that, during the administration of former President Salvador Jorge Blanco, dollars that were generated by the consulates were deposited in a special account for the leader at the Central Bank. Guzman Alvarez said that presently, projects worth millions of pesos are being built with those resources despite the fact they were discoverd at the beginning of the current administration. One of the government's accounts was overdrawn by 29 million pesos. Guzman Alvarez emphasized: If it had not been for the 29 million pesos in the red, there might not have been a trial.

The Republic's comptroller general said that, in a recent audit of the Central Bank, irregularities were detected that occurred during the previous administration. Lic Jose Antonio Guzman Alvarez explained that if an (?importer) presented dollars, the Central Bank would give him a receipt to withdraw pesos. With that same receipt, he would withdraw the money—which he termed as an operation that does not make sense. [as heard] The Republic's comptroller general emphasized that although the operation is considered abnormal, it is still carried out.

Guzman Alvarez refuted Jorge Blanco's views on inflation. He affirmed that his government allowed production stagnation to occur while the public opinion was being deceived with false figures. Guzman Alvarez said that the previous government would spend, just in publicity, $1.2 million per month, to supposedly report just on investments that were being made. Today, however, only 50,000 pesos of the national budget are spent on publicity.

Education Secretary on Teachers Leaving Country

FL0103174589 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1609 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Education Secretary Lic Pedro Pichardo has admitted that the Dominican Republic is having serious economic difficulties and this is causing teachers to leave for the United States, Puerto Rico, and other areas. He said that this situation is part of a way of thinking for those people attracted by deceit. He added that they are attempting to change their economic status this way.

Pichardo said that to deny that there are economic difficulties in the country would be to discount the [words indistinct] but he said he understands that there is an illusion that things can be found in New York or Puerto Rico without having to work. Lic Pichardo said that the people seeking (?a better life) are leaving all sectors, including the teaching sector, even if the cost is having to experience the most vulgar lies.

The education secretary is confronting a strike in the public schools, which has entered its 12th day, with a number of demands from the Dominican Association of Teachers, ADP. The ADP teachers are demanding a wage increase, school breakfasts, equality in salaries, and the fulfillment of the agreements that the trade union signed last November with the Education Secretariat.

The teachers' strike is at a virtual standstill and there appears to be no way out. The [word indistinct] given by Education Secretary Pichardo that much of the teachers' [words indistinct] is a recognition of the underlying reasons behind the strike.

Teachers, Government Hold Talks

FL0203145889 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1139 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] The Dominican Association of Teachers [ADP] and the government will hold talks today at the National Palace. The ADP says it is confident that renewed talks with the government will lead to adequate solutions to the conflict that affects the nation's teachers. ADP Secretary General Rafael Santos said that talks with the government will be renewed tonight at 1900 at the office of the technical secretary of the presidency, Eng Guillermo Caram. Santos said:

"The 2d meeting with Eng Guillermo Caram will be held tomorrow at 1900 at the Technical Secretariat of the Presidency at the National Palace. We are confident that adequate solutions to the education conflict will be reached at this meeting."

The ADP secretary general said that the trade union will go to the meeting today with a flexible attitude.

[Santos] "The ADP's position at this meeting will be flexible. Nevertheless, we do not want to hide our concerns over a series of incidents that have appeared on the scene, such as the withholding of checks and the militarization of education offices.

"The retention of checks has generated a climate of unrest, of increasing anxiety among the teachers, and it may even affect the trade union leaders' interest in reaching a negotiated solution because the level of indignation is such that it will prevent the teachers from adopting a resolution that will lift the strike."

Rafael Santos called on Education Secretary Pedro Pichardo to drop some measures which do not correspond to the cause of the national teachers' conflict.

[Santos] "We believe that the secretary of state for education should create an environment for the meeting by abandoning unnecessary measures which he knows are not the origin of the conflict and which will not solve the problem. Withholding checks will not resolve the basic problem."

Government 'Regrets' Situation in Venezuela

FL0203160189 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1157 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] The economic advisor of the Executive Branch has said that the Government of the Dominican Republic regrets what is happening in the brother Republic of Venezuela. Juan Jose Arteaga has said that this situation is a mirror in which we can see ourselves and evaluate the position taken by Dr Balaguer in reference to economic adjustments.

Arteaga said that keeping inflation low, controlling unemployment, and increasing construction are all great accomplishments for President Joaquin Balaguer.

[Arteaga] "It makes us very sad to see what is currently happening in a brother country but our president, with that vision of the future that he has, has used every measure available to prevent that from happening in this country. As you have always been able to see, he has been receptive to listening to and holding talks with international institutions, but always with the intention of maintaining a sense of patriotism and, above all, maintaining the country's sovereignty. The adjustments that need to be made will be made by the Dominican Republic itself and they will be done the Dominican way."

Arteaga said that the government has decided to maintain its subsidy on oil byproducts to prevent the inflationary index from rising. The economic advisor said that the adjustments the Balaguer government has made have been progressive and they have been done with great wisdom. He said that if there are no excessive or sudden increases, it will be difficult for the problems that affect Venezuela, which this country regrets seeing, to occur here.

The economic advisor also reported that new markets are being sought and non-traditional exports are being increased.

[Arteaga] "In addition, the country is looking for new markets. There is the possibility that we will join the EEC. We are identifying other markets with neighboring Caribbean countries. The reality is that we are doing things."

Press Director Medina 'Removed From Office'

FL0203174289 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1159 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] The National Palace press director, Lic Abraham Medina, was unexpectedly removed from office yesterday by decision of the Administrative Secretariat. Lic Medina had been heading the press office for approximately 2 years. During that time, he had close relations with the reporters who cover events at the National Palace.

The substitute for Lic Abraham Medina has not been designated yet; Medina said he did not know the reason for the removal. The deputy director of the National Palace press office, Lic Danilo Polanco, is currently heading, ad interim, the press office.

Agreements Reached in Cotui Workers Strike
FL0203152989 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1153 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] The organizers of the strike and protests that paralyzed several Cotui communities have decided to lift the strike after reaching a number of agreements with officials of the government and the Rosario Dominicana Mining Company. The agreements were signed after a meeting that lasted more than 4 hours at the office of the Agriculture Secretariat at the Centro de los Heroes.

The Rosario Dominicana has agreed to make payments in excess of 40 million pesos to peasants located in the area known as sector No 1. Next week, the mining company will finish paying 9 million pesos to that same sector.

It was also agreed that the official commission headed by Bishop Juan Antonio Flores will supervise the division of the private property valued at 4 million pesos for the settling of area families. The property of 5,361 (?units) will be divided at 35 (?units) per family.

Correction to 'Strong Military Patrol' at Cotui
FL0103164389

The following correction pertains to the item headlined " 'Strong Military Patrol' Present at Couti Strike," published in the 1 March Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 6:

page 7, column one, paragraph two, last sentence, make read: ...are those in the Rosario Dominicana Mining Company due to their slowness...(clearing queried words)

page 7, column one, paragraph three, second sentence, make read: ...are in the Rosario Dominicana Mining Company. (Jakes) then called...(clearing queried words)

Haiti

Avril Reportedly Summons Section Chiefs
FL0203200789 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Report by Mobile Units 19 and 20]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] We point out that right now, this very minute, as we talk, there is a meeting going on at the National Palace—according to our information—between the head of the military government and 11 rural section chiefs who have been summoned. We saw them this morning at the Army General Headquarters, and (?we later learned) that they were at the National Palace, meeting with the president. [passage omitted]

Students Back on Strike at Port-au-Prince School
FL0203203689 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Excerpt] We have learned that the students of Lycee de Jeunes Filles in Port-au-Prince have gone back on strike. They are not satisfied with the choice of the members of the new administrative committee. [passage omitted]

Fabre Geffrard Students Demonstrate in Gonaives
FL0203204089 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Excerpts] In the Artibonite—more precisely, in Gonaives—we have learned that early this morning, at around 0800, the situation changed a bit in Gonaives. Many students have taken to the streets and are demonstrating. Our correspondent in the area, Bredy Delva, is going to give us details.

[Delva] At around 0800, a demonstration made up of students from Lycee Fabre Geffrard took to the streets. The demonstrators then proceeded to go around to other schools and pick up all the students who were there. They were chanting slogans hostile to the military government and at the same time demanding the release of Mr Paul Cantave, a teacher who teaches at Lycee Fabre Geffrard and several other schools in town. Listen to the demonstration. [passage omitted]

As you just heard, the students seem to be very determined to stick to their guns. There will be no school in Gonaives until teacher Paul Cantave is released, [they say]. We estimate the number of demonstrators to be several thousand students.

We are on the scene and following the evolution of the situation and will keep you informed. This is Bredy Delva, RTNH, Gonaives.

[Announcer] Thank you, Bredy Delva.

Tension Builds in Gonaives
FL0203211489 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] One can feel a certain amount of tension in Gonaives today, Thursday. There is a demonstration made up mostly of students going on, protesting the arrest very early this morning—approximately 0400—of a teacher, Paul Edouard Cantave. Cantave is also a member of a political organization, the PLH [Haitian Liberation Party].

Schools were not open today in Gonaives. While chanting antigovernment slogans, the demonstrators set up flaming barricades at certain intersections. The forces of

order used tear gas; nevertheless, this did not disperse the protesters. It is estimated that there are between 1,500 and 2,000 demonstrators. Here is an account from our correspondent.

[Fegerson Legros, in Creole] As we announced this morning, right now in Gonaives, tension is increasing now and then. [as heard] This morning the students took to the streets and were eventually joined by (?the entire) population, by all sectors, for example [brief break in transmission]... (?release of) Paul Edouard Cantave, who was arrested this morning at around 0400.

There is much babbling going on. The demonstrators in the streets are chanting: They grabbed Polo [Paul Edouard Cantave] in his bed and carted him away. We don't know where they took him. Down with Avril. Long live the people's struggle. Long live Polo.

Meanwhile, there are burning tires at every intersection you pass in Gonaives. The tactical unit soldiers are firing off tear gas. The young people say it's no big deal. They have equipped themselves with limes [to counter the effects of tear gas], and are standing their ground.

There are some 1,500 or 2,000 demonstrators. They are chanting, talking, and [words indistinct]. Paul Edouard Cantave's relatives and friends are (?in tears), because they say they don't know if Cantave is in the Toussaint Louverture Barracks in Gonaives or not. They do not know where he was taken.

The situation is hot and evolving in Gonaives. We are on the scene following events and will keep you informed.

This is Fegerson Legros, Gonaives, Radio Metropole.

General Hospital Paralyzed by Tuesday's Strike

FL0203195289 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] All general hospital personnel—doctors, nurses, nurses' aides, and minor support personnel—stopped work on Tuesday to demand greater security and proper working conditions, according to statements from all kinds of hospital employees. Physicians, residents, and interns stopped work for (?48) hours beginning at 1300 Monday to ask for security and materials, after four persons pulled guns early Monday morning on the guard and the doctors in the hospital's maternity ward because there were no gloves in the department to use in order to give a patient whom the men had brought in first aid. [passage omitted]

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] The incident in the maternity ward was due to the fact that there were no gloves to use to examine the patient; and because there were no gloves, the patient became excited, and the doctor was attacked. So we see that the root of the problem is that there is a materials problem. As long as we don't have adequate materials, the relatives of the patients will always get excited, upon seeing that the patient cannot be cared for; and the doctors will always be the victims, and there will always be insecurity.

And even if they put soldiers clad in olive green at the door, if one day a relative comes and finds himself slapped with a $30 prescription and doesn't have the money to buy it, he might get mad and jump the doctor anyway. [passage omitted] The hospital is an institution that wants to make people believe is functioning; however, in reality, it is not. [end recording]

In a show of solidarity, all department doctors, nurses, and minor support personnel have gone on strike. However, the latter group is asking for a wage increase and a meeting with the minister of public health before going back to work.

Meanwhile, the morgue is closed. Workers will neither release bodies nor accept other cadavers. Furthermore, several patients who have died at the hospital since Monday night are still in their hospital beds, next to the other patients. They have been lying there dead for more than 12 hours. [passage omitted]

For his part, hospital administrator Raphael Faustin thinks the doctors' strike is justified; and a Dessalines Barracks officer whom we met with, along with Faustin, is studying the means to set up security in all the major departments. However, Mr Faustin says the emergency room people should be working, as should the support personnel and the morgue people. The administrator is going to negotiate with them to satisfy their demands. However, a wage increase depends on the public health budget, which has decreased. [passage omitted]

Strikes at Port Authority, Water Works 1 Mar

FL0203202789 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Excerpts] There is a strike movement today within the public administration. At the APN [Autorite Portuaire Nationale, National Port Authority], employees are striking for higher wages. All activity is thus paralyzed at the Port-au-Prince wharf.

Also, Camep [Centrale Metropolitaine d'Eau Potable, the metropolitan area water works] employees have also gone on strike for the same reasons. Here is an account from Mobile Unit 15.

[Mobile 15, in Creole] [Passage omitted] They say they will not go back to work until this problem is solved, and here is how they want it solved. They say that even if the government—or rather, the Finance Ministry—gives them a raise, they want the general director, Mr (Claude Gehy), removed. This, then, is the situation at Camep.

The employees are very excitable and there is a lot of babbling going on at Camep. There is total chaos at present, Ketly, at the Camep offices on Rue des Casernes.

And as I said earlier, there is also a strike at the Port Authority in Port-au-Prince, where the employees are striking for the same reasons—because of a matter of $79,876 [words indistinct], money given to be used to give employees raises. The APN employees say they don't know what the director [rephrases] where this money went. They have learned that it is high-ranking APN officials who have gotten raises. [passage omitted]

Panpra's Gilles Comments on Government Decree
FL0203195789 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Excerpt] We are still getting reaction from the political class in favor of or against the electoral decree. Serges Gilles of Panpra [Nationalistic and Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti] thinks the decree creating a provisional election council promulgated last Friday by General Avril constitutes a victory of the democratic sector over the so-called ultras, who reject any electoral process whatsoever. Mr Gilles thinks that the Old Guard Duvalierists and the terrorist extreme right, fearing they will be permanently shunted aside from power, would like to see General Avril leave power, as would certain drug traffickers and contrabandists.

However, saying that he feels the decree issued by the Avril government does not suffice to guarantee the success of the electoral process, Mr Gilles said he felt it was urgent that the Duvalierist slaughterers be put out of commission, be neutralized so as to be unable to do any damage [la mise hors d'etat de nuire]—as well as that persons in the president's entourage totally impermeable to democratic ideas be shunted aside. Gilles also advocated the formation of an open government. [passage omitted]

National Revolutionary Party Press Conference
FL0203215889 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Excerpts] In LETTRE D'HAITI No 3, issued on 26 February 1989, Panpra [Nationalistic and Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti]—which is headed by Serges Gilles—declares that the electoral decree put out by the General Avril government on 23 February to guarantee the success of the electoral process is not enough to prevent another 29 November. Panpra reiterates the need to set aside the Duvalierist slaughterers capable of doing damage and to remove the ministers and advisors among the president's entourage whose minds are totally shut to any idea of democracy. Panpra cites Minister Virginie Saint-Pierre as an example and asks the Avril government to do everything in its power to quickly form a government of opening. Panpra adds that if the president of the military government does not move quickly to do this, he risks opening the way to unceasing agitation and (?might find) himself alone against absolutely all the democratic opposition because *he will have abused* the good faith of that opposition. Thus, he will lose the support of everyone who provides foreign aid and he will be condemned to orient his government in the direction of a dictatorship, like his predecessor General Henri Namphy, with all the consequences that this entails.

In this same connection, Panpra held a press conference yesterday morning [day as heard], and reiterated in LETTRE D'HAITI No 3 the diverse stands it had taken.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] In connection with the general political crisis that Haiti is experiencing, diverse organizations are setting forth their positions based on the way they see things evolving in Haiti. For its part, Panpra, is calling for a government of opening to ensure the transition to a situation in which democracy (?can be) properly established. This is what Panpra announced at a press conference today, Tuesday, [day as heard] at the Holiday Inn [Le Plaza] Hotel.

In its analysis of the juncture, Panpra said it thinks that elections are not possible in a situation like the present situation, where insecurity has established itself in Haiti. The section chiefs are trampling the peasants. Also, the people who are part of the government are not seen as credible, serious people who want change.

Panpra also asks that all the slaughterers, who are democracy's principal enemies, be removed. That is why—according to Panpra—in order to restore confidence in the Haitian people who were dealt big blows following the 29 November 1987 elections, an open government made up of credible people who represent different democratic organizations in Haiti must be established, on the basis of a minimal program. This government must take all of the previously mentioned measures in order to be able to organize truly honest and democratic elections.

[Gilles] [Passage omitted] We said it.... [changes thought] The men with the red armbands.... [changes thought] When Lafontant [not further identified] was sending money into the country so that there would not be democracy in Haiti, we identified them [not further identified]. We pointed out the people who were distributing money in Cap-Haitien and in Gonaives, the people who were intoxicating people so that there would be a climate of insecurity and instability so that there would never be elections in Haiti, so that there would not be democracy in Haiti, we identified them. That is who the principal enemy is! Clearly! And we think that all democrats, all revolutionaries must.... [changes thought] When I say revolutionaries, I am not talking about [words indistinct] revolutionaries, for as you know there are a number of revolutionaries who make this claim but are not revolutionaries at all because they do not analyze things! They are not capable of determining, at each

historical moment, who the principal enemy is! A real revolutionary must be capable of determining who the principal enemy is at all times.

Yes, well, we say that we cannot accept such things. And there we will argue, we will [words indistinct]. There must be security in the country.

We mentioned the section chief problem. This is about the 10th time we have said it! [passage omitted] Something must be done about these people. They must be fired. They must be replaced by other section chiefs, by people whom the population can trust. [passage omitted]

Another problem that must be solved is the problem of insecurity. [passage omitted]

We say that, on the political level, (?there) must be credible men in the cabinet. [passage omitted] It is true that there has been a loss of confidence in this government. In order to restore peace, initiatives need to be taken to satisfy the most pressing of the demands; for example, to solve the problem of the Creole pigs, which is a problem every peasant has and to solve the problem of what is going on at the hospitals, where a hospital, the general hospital, does not have even cotton. [passage omitted] We say that this requires a certain amount of trust. [end recording]

Panpra has chosen an open government instead of a coalition government because—says Panpra—it is too early for a coalition government. A coalition government could come later. For now, Panpra feels it has to be an open government, a transitional government to solve the population's most immediate problems and satisfy their most pressing demands. Panpra feels that one would have to first determine how well-established and how representative organizations are before arriving at a government of national coalition. This should be evaluated on the basis of elections.

The political line being applied by Panpra at the current juncture is based on negotiation, pressure, and concrete proposals. That is why, said the speakers, Panpra participated in the national forum on the condition that what Panpra considers the principal enemy--the people who effected the massacres—not be present. [passage omitted]

Panpra acknowledges that the forum resulted in a revolutionary CEP [Provisional and/or Permanent Election Council], in which the unions are represented and which takes into account the diaspora.

[Begin Gilles recording] [Passage omitted] And we think that this electoral institution is an acquisition. It doesn't belong to any one person. It is the Haitian people's struggle to have an electoral institution so that the Interior Ministry will stop organizing elections in Haiti, so that we can organize credible organizations as is done in certain countries—more precisely, in Latin America. We think that this is an achievement on the level of democracy. [passage omitted]

We think the result is positive. The government put out an electoral decree that respects the spirit of the Constitution. [passage omitted]

And we take this opportunity to say that we regret.... [changes thought] Because we can feel that there is a kind of rear-guard battle going on, some kind of byzantine thing going on over whether the decree issued is constitutional or not. You are asking for a de facto government, which itself is not constitutional, to respect the Constitution literally paragraph by paragraph? No, we ourselves are interested in the essence of things. And you know, out of this Constitution, this CEP, which is an electoral institution, is even revolutionary! Understand this well; we are well aware of what we are saying. When you compare this CEP to all the election councils in Latin America, this election council goes much farther than any of the others. People should be made aware of this—on two points. And this is the result of the forum.

First, show me an election council in Latin America that has union representatives! We think that everyone struggling for the masses should acknowledge this! [end recording]

The second point is because the decree takes into acco nt the diaspora.

That was Panpra's position on the forum at a press conference held at the Holiday Inn Hotel, today, Tuesday [day as heard].

Panpra is calling for an open government as a condition for elections. This position is contrary to that of others, who categorically reject the forum and call for the current government to step down.

Who is right? Well, we are watching to see.

Man Allegedly Killed by Soldier During Argument
FL0203205489 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] The problem of insecurity continues in the capital and in our provincial towns. Last night at approximately 2215, very near Radio Nationale, across from Radio Nationale, on Delmas 32, a young man was shot five times by a soldier, according to what witnesses told us. The people say that the young man was shot by the soldier during an argument.

As we talk to you right now, the body is still there, across from the radio station, on Delmas 32. We ask that a justice of the peace come out and formally record the incident, and that the General Hospital come pick up this body that is lying across the street from us here on Delmas 32.

It is 0936.

Group Supports New Bloc, To Boycott Elections
FL0203204689 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 2 Mar 89

[Text] Here in Port-au-Prince, the united neighborhood committees express support, in a press release, for the new democratic bloc that did not participate in the 9 February forum, a forum the united neighborhood committees call a phony [malatchyon] forum. They say they will not participate in the elections that the Avril/Heubreux government is going to organize. They demand that the Constitution of 29 March 1987 be applied. They say it is the Haitian people's only guarantee against the heavy-handed arrests being made and against acts of repression being committed by the police in Haiti.

Radio Soleil Comments on Deteriorating Situation
FL0203183889 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] The situation is deteriorating in every way in Haiti—socially, politically, and economically—and many people pretend not to understand a thing. The wave of anxiety that washed over the population in November 1987 is again beginning to sink its claws into the population.

People continue to be executed in the middle of the street, and even lying in their beds in their own homes. Armed robbers have begun making life hard for people; and similar to the period around 29 November 1987, the population gets no protection from the people responsible for providing such protection. Section chiefs continue to persecute, martyr, and imprison peasants in the four corners of Haiti. Persecution has also begun against anyone who might try to raise his head to say it is time for some changes, time for the life of the Haitian masses to improve a little.

A majority of Haitians continue to live in filth, to die from hunger, and to sleep on the public squares, in the streets, and under porches. Children continue to risk getting run over by vehicles at all traffic lights in the capital. They [not further identified] prefer to give them uniforms, instead of keeping their promises.

All the people, sectors, and institutions in a position to lift their voices and protest against this indecent, intolerable situation, are keeping their mouths shut. One could almost call it a silence of complicity. They claim to be helpless, and fold their arms. They renounce their duty. Meanwhile, the population is abandoned to itself.

Certain people react only when the indecency of the situation disturbs them, gives them a guilty conscience. However, until the situation reaches that point, until there is a collective massacre, they see everything as being normal. They continue to live serenely, happily, in their abundance of luxury. They see nothing wrong.

Belize

Opposition Protests Radio, Television Censorship

FL2202222089 Bridgetown CANA in English 2135 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] Belmopan, Belize, Feb 21, CANA—The opposition People's United Party (PUP), on Monday picketed the state-owned Radio Belize station in downtown Belize City, complaining that it was getting a raw deal from the government and the radio.

The party charged that the government had a "repressive control of the radio and television stations." The PUP had previously said that it would step up its campaign against the Manuel Esquivel regime's alleged censorship of the opposition.

The protesters carried placards calling for freedom of speech, the end of government censorship, respect for the right of free speech and accused the government with "the abuse of the air wave".

PUP officials complained that they had trouble getting their views fully aired and when the state media carry their reports, they are often late.

Costa Rica

Arias Meets With Nicaraguan Opposition Leaders

PA0203170089 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Costa Rican President Oscar Arias has described his meeting with Nicaraguan opposition political leaders as positive. President Arias also announced that he had offered them technical assistance in electoral matters. Arias said that for the necessary electoral changes to be made and for a real political opening to occur in Nicaragua, it is important that the opposition political groups sit down and negotiate with the government. During the recent summit in El Salvador, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega Saavedra promised to make the necessary legal changes so elections can be fair and so the opposition political parties can have an equal chance to win.

Following his meeting with the Nicaraguan opposition political leaders, President Arias said he has faith that steps will be taken toward democratization. Arias reiterated the need for changes in the electoral law so all parties will have an opportunity to choose and be chosen.

The Costa Rican president added that the Sandinist regime must understand that Nicaragua's economy and production will not recover and the Nicaraguan people's standard of living will not improve without a real democratic and political opening that will lead to peace.

Oscar Arias also announced that in the next few hours, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega will announce an amnesty for 1,900 political prisoners. President Arias said he had talked to Ortega on the telephone and that Ortega not only advised him of the visit of the opposition political leaders but also said that he, Ortega, had already met with some of them. Ortega told Arias that declaring the amnesty and meeting with the opposition is proof that Nicaragua is abiding by the commitments it made.

Detainee Details Echevers Gunrunning Plans

PA0203161989 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] A Costa Rican whose surname is Fallas has been arrested by National Security agents in connection with an arms cache seized 8 February in Coronado. Fallas earned a living by handling immigration applications and, when interrogated by National Security agents, he disclosed considerable information on Panamanian citizen Jose Manuel Echevers' activities in smuggling weapons in Panama.

Echevers was arrested by National Security authorities 1 day after the weapons' seizure and was charged with owning the weapons found in an area where a coffee mill will be installed.

Fallas said in his statement that Jose Manuel Echevers had plans to purchase 3 million colones worth of weapons, including AK-47 machineguns, RPG-7 grenade launchers, and ammunition left by the contras in Nicaragua. However, the deal was not completed when the arms cache was seized and Echevers was arrested by the authorities. Seven persons have been arrested so far in connection with the arms cache.

Another detail revealed by Fallas—when interrogated by National Security agents concerning the arms cache seized in Coronado—is that the Panamanian, Echevers, had plans to smuggle the weapons into Panama. Fallas reasserted the statement issued by Nicaraguan citizen Wilson Hudson—recently arrested in connection with the case—which said that Echevers was to smuggle the weapons into Panamanian territory to begin an armed struggle against Panama Defense Forces Commander General Noriega.

According to the details provided by Fallas, the weapons would be left in a place close to the southern border and would later be transferred to Panamanian territory.

El Salvador

Bombs Explode Near U.S. Embassy 2 Mar

PA0303042789 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0315 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Report by Alfredo Villarreal]

[Text] Alleged FMLN guerrilla cells detonated four explosive devices at noon today less than five blocks from the U.S. Embassy. The bombs, which damaged five vehicles, exploded near a Christian Democratic Party [PDC] peasant office.

The explosion did thousands of colones in damage. Three government jeeps and two private vehicles parked near the jeeps were damaged. However, a private pickup truck owned by a salesman who was visiting a client at the time suffered the most damage. The bomb was placed under its engine.

[Begin recording] [Salesman] I came to visit a client, but unfortunately, look what happened instead.

[Reporter] What reports do you have on this?

[Salesman] None. Since we are out working, we are unaware of these types of problems. Who will pay for the damage done to my truck? No one will pay for it.

[Reporter] Did you see anyone?

[Salesmen] We saw no one. [end recording]

According to reports, several alleged urban guerrilla units sabotaged the five vehicles parked on Flores Street and Maria Cristina Boulevard at noon. They were all parked in front of the offices of the PDC peasant movement. The security guards present were unable to prevent the rebels from carrying out their actions. Explosives technicians were able to defuse two small but powerful bundles of TNT left behind by the guerrillas.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified eyewitness] [Words indistinct] It was a white vehicle. When the explosives were placed there, the vehicle was already turned on. It all happened very quickly.

[Reporter] How many were they?

[Eyewitness] There were six [words indistinct]. The weapon was probably unloaded because [words indistinct]. He climbed into the car. [end recording]

Even though the guerrillas have stopped using car bombs, they have continued to use explosive devices in the streets, which could bring about the same fateful results for the civilian population as the car bombs.

FMLN Leader Shafik Handal Discusses 'Crossroads'
PA0203204989 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 26 Feb 89 p 11

[Report by Marcio Vargas on interview with FMLN guerrilla leader Jorge Shafik Handal; date and place not given—quotation marks as published]

[Text] Mexico—For Shafik Handal, FMLN guerrilla leader, the "crossroads" in El Salvador (the peaceful solution or the intensification of the war) is about to be resolved.

He says that "a national consensus is being constructed" to include the political parties that participated in a 2-day meeting here with the FMLN to opt for negotiations based on the insurgent peace proposal. The Armed Forces High Command "has unholstered its guns" to try to obstruct the peaceful path and opt for war.

Just a few hours after the conclusion of the meeting between 13 Salvadoran political parties and FMLN representatives at the Vocational Center of Oaxtepec, 60 km south of here, Handal said "the ball had been thrown to the parties. Now they returned it."

[Vargas] What real possibilities are there to open a path to negotiations that will lead to the free elections you propose?

[Handal] "If there is national consensus, that path can be opened, and the consensus of the nation is being constructed. There is already a consensus of the social forces who met under the sponsorship of the church. If there is consensus among the political parties...it can be opened, because this agreement in Mexico is not just anything. We value it highly."

He added that the national consensus must also include some sector of the Armed Forces, "because not everyone in it thinks like the High Command." It must also include sectors of private enterprise, so "we can talk...construct this together." Handal said achieving elections and a government of consensus "is not easy," but there will be no democracy in the country unless this changes.

[Vargas] The FMLN proposal to recognize the elections, if they are truly democratically held, is a change from what the insurgents proposed in the past, right? How did you arrive at this?

[Handal] The situation within the country is different; the social and political situations have changed. They have also changed in Central America and the region in general. The Reagan administration's U.S. policy has failed, and the world began a process of detente and solving the regional conflicts. In Washington there is the new Bush administration, which has not yet defined its policy toward Central America.

A series of factors led us to believe it was the right moment to make a bold proposal...there was a change after the failure of Reagan's policy, and we asked ourselves: Is it possible to guarantee negotiations in another manner? We replied: Let us try. We figured that because of the time in which we are living, let us go to the elections, offering to everyone, including Washington, a new proposal that facilitates a peaceful solution in a way that will prevent international confrontation and permit good relations with the United States, because we do not want a break even with the United States. We want to have good relations with the U.S. Government, because we already have them with the (U.S.) people.

[Vargas] You had negotiations with the United States before; what did you achieve?

[Handal] It accumulated...agreements were made that the government did not fulfill. But it accumulated, and those talks were increasing the Salvadoran people's desire for peace, because peace is now a universal desire among all sectors of the Salvadoran people.

However, Duarte never agreed to a dialogue or to accept anything other than our complete surrender. Today things have changed, in the country and abroad.

[Vargas] Nevertheless, the Armed Forces High Command is opposed to considering the proposal...

[Handal] When we made our proposal on 23 January, we addressed the government; the Armed Forces' High Command—formally part of the Executive Branch, although this is so much rhetoric—which actually holds the real power; the Legislative Assembly, where the Nationalist Republican Alliance [ARENA] has a majority of seats; and the political parties.

In the next 48 hours the initial reaction was no, and the Army remained silent, although it was speaking through President Duarte. In the first 15 days, the no came through Duarte. However, when (the proposal) spread to the international field, support began to grow inside the country. There came the well-known reply from the U.S. State Department calling for "thought," and things began to change. Then the government threw the ball to the political parties and said it would accept a consensus among the parties.

However, the political parties took the matter seriously and began to analyze the proposal, which is unprecedented in El Salvador, and began to construct the consensus for us. Then the Army began to talk and drew its gun, going from pressure to action.

General Staff Chief Colonel Emilio Ponce, apparently because of a lack of political experience, spoke in public as if he were presiding over a High Command meeting, saying: The proposal is unacceptable; we do not like it; we must unite our forces to destroy the FMLN, to eliminate the cancer of the FMLN.

Defense Minister Eugenio Vides Casanova, with more political experience, handled himself better but was also obliged to draw his guns, threatening to carry out a coup d'etat if the president remained in power after 1 June, the end of the constitutional term...That is why he now proposes, constitutionally, that the Assembly appoint a provisional president on 1 June.

However, Vides Casanova did not raise his gun against Duarte, a sick man who says he will not stay in the Presidency 1 day longer. Duarte does not want to and cannot. Vides raised his guns against the possibility of a provisional president. This is the real obstacle on 1 June. However, the parties continued, and all came to the meeting in Mexico, where the document emerged demanding a dialogue as soon as possible. They had thrown the ball to the parties, and now the parties returned the ball to see what the answer would be.

[Vargas] Did the parties discuss the reasons for the negative response? What will they do now?

[Handal] The general opinion at the meeting was that all the presidential candidates should be withdrawn so the 19 March presidential elections could not be held. The reasons for the lack of consensus were not clearly expressed. The lack of consensus was especially visible among the governing Christian Democratic Party [PDC] representatives. They presented a proposal to postpone elections for 15 days, but it was rejected by all the parties because that proposal did not get to the core of our proposal, and later it was said they had no authority to make decisions. That is the way things ended; the meeting's results were left open to allow the PDC to join the commitments reached.

[Vargas] What about the ultrarightist ARENA?

[Handal] We must point out that, contrary to any impression we may have or have had, the ARENA delegation contributed significantly to the agreement during the meeting. This leaves room for speculation, but I am not going to do so. You can make your own judgement.

[Vargas] What will happen if the government and the Armed Forces insist on not negotiating?

[Handal] Colonel Ponce already responded to that. He speaks of destroying the FMLN, and I gather that the military will be making a special effort to accomplish this. Therefore, the war will be intensified...This is not a threat or an ultimatum, even if the Army says it is. We are capable of confronting the Army; we are not weak; the Army is mistaken if it says so. We know the Army, and we have learned to fight it.

There is a crossroads here, two paths, and the High Command has unsheathed its pistol to close the path to a political solution.

[Vargas] What is this about the FMLN's deactivation if the proposal is accepted? What will happen?

[Handal] We would immediately negotiate a 5-month cease-fire, to be implemented during the election campaign, and simultaneously negotiate the end of the armed struggle. It is not, therefore, a matter of putting our weapons down. Our weapons are still raised to defend the Salvadoran people's legitimate hopes...The war's conclusion would create a truly democratic system.

The Armed Forces must be transformed; they must be obedient to civilian power; the security bodies should be dissolved and rebuilt as a truly professional public security body.

[Vargas] Some people say this proposal eliminates the armed struggle strategy. Is that true?

[Handal] Our strategy is still a combination of armed, political, and diplomatic struggles.

A new situation has emerged, a new moment of prominence for the political and diplomatic struggles, which has led us to restate the armed struggle regarding these two aspects.

[Vargas] How will our struggle end?

[Handal] That depends on the crossroads and on the path chosen. If this proposal is accepted it will be a victory for the people, because it is tied in with the people's hopes. In other words, it is a revolution with new attributes, because every revolution has its own attributes.

If the path is closed, we will not abandon our political and diplomatic struggles, but the armed struggle's significance will, of course, increase.

[Vargas] Father Ignacio Ellacuria, rector of the Catholic University of El Salvador and a well-known analyst, recently said it seems as if the era of armed struggle has ended in El Salvador...

[Handal] I respect Ellacuria...but...we all make mistakes. It is not a matter of proving who is right solely through discussions, but also through events.

FMLN Representative in Europe Interviewed

AU2702153389 Vienna DER STANDARD in German 27 Feb 89 p 3

[Interview with Antonio Martinez, FMLN representative in Europe, by Norbert Mayer in Vienna; date not given: "A Peaceful Solution for El Salvador; the FMLN Is Seeking Diplomatic Solutions to the Conflicts"]

[Text] DER STANDARD: What are the latest summit's concrete effects on your country and your movement?

Martinez: Unfortunately, the Salvadoran Government has refused to put the issue of El Salvador on the agenda of this presidential summit. The presidential summit was expected to provide an opportunity to look for a peaceful solution, according to the proposal we have made.

The central issue of our plan is our readiness to participate in the elections. In return, we want the elections to be postponed for approximately 6 months and, in addition, we want guarantees that these elections will take place democratically.

DER STANDARD: Who are your partners for talks? With whom do you not want to talk?

Martinez: We do not want to exclude any social or political force. The only condition is a readiness to discuss this proposal.

DER STANDARD: Are the elections to be watched over by foreign observers or are they an internal affair?

Martinez: In order to guarantee clean elections, we have proposed, in the first place, an internal control and supervisory organization consisting of humanitarian, church, and Christian groups and organizations in El Salvador. It is also planned that these institutions will invite foreign personalities who are interested in the process in El Salvador, so that they can also participate in supervising the elections.

DER STANDARD: The FMLN is repeatedly accused of being Fidel Castro's mouthpiece. Do you want Castro to observe the elections?

Martinez: The FMLN has very broad relations. Relations with Fidel Castro are very friendly. He has frequently expressed his admiration for the revolutionary movement in El Salvador. Now the time has come for "Latin Americanism," which is to solve the problems of this region by means of cooperation between the democratic and revolutionary forces of Latin America. In such cooperation, Fidel Castro and Cuba also have to play a role.

This Latin Americanism is essentially connected with the United States' policy as a superpower, because U.S. interests are not necessarily identical with the joint interests of the Latin American peoples. The great challenge for the new U.S. Administration is to understand this. International observers are not so important. It is more important to put an end to repression and U.S. interference in El Salvador.

DER STANDARD: In what respect is your plan different from Arias' plan? How is Arias regarded: As a U.S. soldier? Or is he striving for peace in an authentically Latin American way?

Martinez: Arias' role is evaluated positively by the FMLN. However, we do believe that Arias could do even more for peace in Central America. We realize that, on the one hand, the problem of Central America is a regional conflict, but in addition it has its own particular roots in each individual country.

DER STANDARD: What is the special problem of El Salvador?

Martinez: The point is to achieve democracy in El Salvador. Duarte has not been able to fruitfully implement the North American project because he has not succeeded in solving this problem of power, neither in the direction of an oligarchy nor in the direction of a popular movement.

DER STANDARD: Duarte is maybe a poor man between the fronts.

Martinez: Duarte is the United States' man in El Salvador.

DER STANDARD: Who is the right man for Western Europe?

Martinez: We do not expect Europe to support the FMLN, but to support a democratic project:
—respecting national sovereignty,
—a democratic government,
—an economic system that guarantees social justice,
—a nonaligned policy toward the outside, and
—no foreign intervention in internal conflicts.

DER STANDARD: Can you envision a coalition government with Duarte?

Martinez: In this proposal, the FMLN has advocated the project of democratic convergence with the Social Democrats and the Christian Social movement.

Of course, the whole thing is a very general hypothesis. The FMLN's proposal has to be interpreted as an attempt to find a peaceful solution to the crisis.

DER STANDARD: However, there are still fights. How do people become revolutionaries?

Martinez: If you are in the European Diplomatic-Political Commission, then as a revolutionary you lead a different life than in El Salvador. It is now 1 year since I was fighting at the front. And now I am part of the international team. It is the FMLN's policy to always recall people in the diplomatic service to their country, so that they do not lose close contact with the heat of the struggle.

ARENA's Ochoa Perez on FMLN Proposal

PA2702163289 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 23 Feb 89 p 3

[Text] "The elections in our country must be carried out on 19 March. ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] has good intentions in seeking options for peace through dialogue with the FMLN, but we are not going to accept the terrorists' proposals because we will not betray the Armed Forces or violate the Constitution."

This statement was made yesterday by Colonel Sigifredo Ochoa Perez, vice president of the Legislative Assembly, in commenting on the meeting of political parties with the FMLN "commanders" in Mexico. The guerrillas have proposed that the troop strength of the Armed Forces be reduced.

"Cheap politicking" is what the political parties are doing with the FMLN "terrorist bands" in Mexico. "ARENA has clearly stated its position. As a party, we are attending because we do not rule out dialogue, but we are not agreeing to anything," Ochoa said.

Ochoa Perez said the political parties should not even consider this new FMLN proposal. He said to do so would be a betrayal of the Armed Forces, which have sacrificed many lives in defense of the fatherland's sovereignty, under attack from the FMLN's "terrorist bands." These groups are now making simplistic proposals, which we politicians know to be tactics by the Farabundo followers to play for time. The FMLN is not interested in peace but in taking power by deceit, at rifle point, without caring how many lives are lost along the way, Ochoa Perez insisted.

The FMLN leaders are showing "broad signs of flexibility, as they have never done before," the ARENA deputy said. "That is a clear sign that they are militarily weak. The attacks that have been carried out in our country were planned especially to coincide with the meetings in Mexico, and this is also a sign that they are divided. While their diplomatic commanders are talking, those who are in charge in the mountains are attacking civilians. [Guerrilla leader] Joaquin Villalobos has not even been seen in Mexico; thus the divisions within the FMLN make them appear flexible, while they continue to be the same as always: aggressors and destroyers of the country," Ochoa Perez added.

"Therefore, if the political parties were to agree to any FMLN position, they would become traitors to the fatherland, traitors to the Armed Forces, and traitors to the blood that thousands of Salvadorans have shed throughout our beloved fatherland in defending the nation's sovereignty from the FMLN's criminal aggression," Ochoa Perez said emphatically.

The ARENA deputy said politicians should stop engaging in cheap politicking. He said: We as a party have clearly said that we will not agree to any proposal of the FMLN aggressors that runs contrary to the constitutional system. We can sit down to talk, as we have done in Mexico, but we do not accept proposals that betray the fatherland, he said.

Ochoa Perez said: In view of the latest FMLN proposal, it is urgent that we Salvadorans remain united as an internal front in solidarity with the Armed Forces, because the FMLN talks of dialogue for peace, but by its

actions against the civilian population it demonstrates that it only wants the peace of cemeteries. We Salvadorans want peace in freedom and with progress, Ochoa Perez said.

Archbishop Rejects Violence as Solution
PA2702134889 San Salvador La Voz Panamericana in Spanish 1400 GMT 26 Feb 89

[Homily by Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas, archbishop of San Salvador, at the Metropolitan Cathedral in San Salvador—live]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] We must obey God so His word may bear fruit. We must not take advantage of God's patience by allowing crucial moments to pass us by. During this 1989 Lenten season, we must allow justice to bear fruit so there will be peace among us.

With 3 weeks left before the presidential elections, there is a general awareness of the importance of this time for the fatherland's future. This sensation has made these times terribly confusing and awkward, especially after the FMLN disclosed its proposal 1 month ago.

I offered to carefully examine the proposal and prepare a counterproposal based upon points of consensus. I also insisted on the need for goodwill gestures that would be clearly understood by the people, such as a decrease in the level of violence. Unfortunately, the exact opposite has occurred, dashing our hopes of an end to the war in the near future. Moreover, as if all that I have said was not enough to discourage our suffering people, there was a condemnable attack on the FENASTRAS [Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation] headquarters, followed by a violent response by the union's leaders who, yielding to the temptation of untempered violence, exulted in destroying vehicles and sacking stores. This orgy of violence clearly contrasted with the talks under way in Mexico between political and rebel leaders, placing the fate of the talks in doubt. As a result, President Duarte's meeting with ranking politicians and Army officers did not arouse much expectation.

As a pastor of a people undeservedly suffering the scourge of war, I cannot resign myself to believe that all the paths to peace are closed. I cannot believe social uprising is the solution. I therefore ask you to use the wisdom that this situation's seriousness merits. The people, I am convinced, will express their gratitude not to those who attempt to save them by force, but to those who, attempting to end the armed conflict, use the force of reason to its fullest.

Meanwhile, I must fulfill the painful duty of keeping the people's sense of human dignity alive, although it has been offended week after week by incidents such as those that appear in the latest report issued by the Legal Assistance Office. The report mentions new threats by a death squad, the murder of 2 people in the style of those condemnable groups, and the death of 35 Salvadorans during insurgent and counterinsurgent activities. Especially heartrending and no less condemnable was the tragic death of two elderly people, Pedro Mauricio Hernandez and his wife Maria Teresa de Hernandez, who were the innocent victims of a car bomb placed by guerrillas near the San Carlos headquarters. [passage omitted]

Police Chief Cited on Demonstration, Unity
PA2702202389 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 24 Feb 89 p 3

[Text] National Chief of Police Colonel Carlos Guzman Aguilar has appealed for unity between the Armed Forces and Salvadoran people to confront situations such as those staged Wednesday by members of labor organizations, who looted and burned private property.

The police chief condemned the crimes committed by members of the FENASTRAS [Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation], who in open provocation of the authorities took to the streets to sow terror. "There are more civilized ways to protest," he said.

Guzman Aguilar said agitators are endangering stability and the legal order by taking to the streets, as FENASTRAS and UNTS [National Union of Salvadoran Workers] did.

"We condemn violent actions against businesses, such as those committed by UNTS and FENASTRAS," Guzman stated. He added: "We also condemn the irresponsible accusations of the leaders of these groups who, in accordance with FMLN-FDR slogans, place all the blame on the Armed Forces."

The police chief recalled that the communists' provocations are to create confrontations to justify their charge that they are the "victims of repression."

Guzman Aguilar noted that National Police actions reflect the decisions of the Armed Forces High Command.

He also came out against excessive tolerance, because the people protest to the Armed Forces when they fear they are not being protected. Guzman believes that just as communists protest the actions taken against them, businessmen, industrialists, and all those who are targets of terrorist attacks should do likewise.

Guatemala

*** Preelection Activities of Parties, Candidates**
32480075b Guatemala City DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA in Spanish 16 Jan 89 pp 8-9

[Text] With 22 months still remaining before the 1990 general electoral event, the parties and the different currents within them, as well as the candidates and precandidates, have begun intensive preelectoral activity. In some

instances, such as that of the government party, Guatemalan Christian Democracy (DCG), a rather surprising movement has occurred internally, with the emergence of two precandidacies; whereas there was every indication of its heading toward ratification of President Vinicio Cerezo's favorite candidate, the party's secretary general, Foreign Minister Alfonso Cabrera.

Another also surprising case, because of the person's quality and the legislation in effect, is that involving the candidacy of the former head of state, General Efrain Rios Montt, ostensibly retired from politics and engaged in religious work in the group to which he belongs.

Other names are also appearing, and certain positions are becoming consolidated among the approximately 20 precandidate nominees and the also approximately 20 groups and parties, ranging from left of center to extreme right, as has been the case during recent years.

Surprise Entries in Christian Democracy

Amid a few minicrises caused by Deputy Otto Baechli's dissidence and the division in the congressional group over the candidacy for the presidency of the Congress, a unexpected movement has occurred in DC. When everything seemed to be moving in favor of Foreign Minister Alfonso Cabrera, following the reversal of the weak position in which he was left after the 11 May coup, the announcement that Raquel Blandon de Cerezo and Rene de Leon Schlotter are also precandidates caused shock in political circles. Both were recognized by the Guatemalan Christian Democracy party's National Executive Committee as precandidates, together with Professor Cabrera, in a public statement calling upon all members to participate actively in this phase.

As has been noted, the announcement has evoked various reactions, inasmuch as the candidacy of the chief executive's wife appears to be incompatible with the country's constitutional and legal rulings. The other candidacy, or precandidacy, that of Development Minister Rene de Leon Schlotter, has also proven surprising, since it was thought that the power of the party's founder had been curtailed by the younger generations, because he had moved to more conservative positions, wielding less influence over the party's politics and decisions.

They would not cause surprises of any other type, since both politicians have sufficient merits in our country to opt for a candidacy. For example, Attorney Rene de Leon Schlotter was one of the party's founders in 1955. He was secretary general and president of DCG, and a leader on the international level (president of the World Christian Democratic Organization); he was a political leader for over 30 years, a university professor, currently development minister, an ex-vice presidential candidate with General Ricardo Peralta Mendez in 1978, a deputy to Congress, etc. According to political experts and analysts De Leon Schlotter has not only the ability but also the right to be a presidential candidate of his party.

Raquel Blandon de Cerezo, a lawyer, candidate for deputy on more than one occasion, a party leader and hopeful for the secretary general's position, is also the first woman introduced to participate in the politico-electoral battle. Raquel Blandon began playing a leading role in support of the popular movements during Vinicio Cerezo's first year in government. She backed Father Andres Giron's peasant proland movement. She took part in demonstrations against the high cost of living, and sought housing solutions for occupants of idle properties during those same months. These actions, certain previous statements, and her friendship and relations with some of the more left-oriented sectors of the DC party itself, caused her to be identified as a guerrilla commandant who used the pseudonym "Commandant Carlota."

Her political ability has also been cited, because of the fact that she might be behind the formation of a women's party, for the establishment of which she has been doing preparatory work, including rapprochment with the Democratic Socialist Party, a group described by some sectors as positioned on the left.

In any event, her precandidacy could remain just that, given a set of conditions ("the country is not ready to be governed by a woman," for example) which are different from what appears to be the real obstacle. Moreover, although it has been known in but few circles, the Army would not approve of having a woman as its commander in chief.

Efrain Rios Montt, Formal Candidacies and Other Marginal Ones

But the announcement of Raquel's "constitutionally impossible candidacy" followed that of "another also impossible candidate." Gen Efrain Rios Montt, winner of the 1974 elections, heading a Christian Democratic, Social Democratic, and leftist reformist platform, and subsequently governing, upon the victory of the 23 March 1982 coup, announced his intention of proclaiming himself a presidential candidate. Rios Montt resigned from his position as leader of the Verbo (fundamentalist evangelical) Church, and made public his intention to participate as a candidate; he will report on his decision at a press conference to be held soon. Announced as backers of his precandidacy are the Democratic Institutional Party (PID), Nationalist Unity Front (FUN), and the Popular Democratic Force (FDP) party (in the process of formation).

The debate over the Rios Montt candidacy is focused on two aspects in particular: the constitutional limitation on those who have participated in de facto governments, and the many accusations hovering over the general with regard to human rights violations. Nevertheless, it is some of those forceful actions (involving the courts of special jurisdiction, for example) that are remembered by his fellow party members, in view of the insecure atmosphere and the almost paranoid situation being experienced because of common crimes. On the other

hand, the parties that have supported his candidacy in principle show neither a high degree of representation nor the best of credentials. PID was the party which, in an alliance with MLN [National Liberation Movement], led the fraud in 1974 and, with PR [Revolutionary Party], formed the government described as the most repressive ever known in the country, that of Romeo Lucas Garcia, in 1978-82. FUN and FDP are small groups that have played very modest roles in the events in which they have participated.

Other candidates who appear firm are Fernando Andrade Diaz Duran, in a grouping of right of center parties led by the Reformist National Party (PNR); and journalist Jorge Carpio Nicolle, heading his National Union of the Center (UNC) party, the candidate beaten by Cerezo in the 1985 elections who, it is said, might become allied with Jorge Serrano and his Solidary Action Movement (MAS) party. Mario Solorzano appears as PSD's [Democratic Socialist Party] likely candidate, although there is a certain pro-Andrade current, and another favoring a leftist candidacy, within his party. The only one appearing on the extreme right side is General Hector Mario Lopez Fuentes, promoted by the National Liberation Movement [MLN] and aspiring to be a unifying force for the entire right.

Former Interior Minister Juan Jose Rodil Peralta has also become a precandidate representing the newly arrived Social Christian Democratic Party. His name is likewise being mentioned among the precandidates of the Democratic Party of National Cooperation (PDCN), along with Fernando Andrade. Rodil, who describes himself as a Social Christian, would fit the Democratic Party's definition of Social Christian. Rodil was once considered a DC precandidate, but his departure from the government, "for attempting to turn the police into a greater force than the Army," as was claimed when the 11 May coup occurred, deprived him of that opportunity, and seemed to have deprived him of the impetus. But now PD is putting forth his name as first choice.

Also cited among the figures that come and go as potential candidates are the priests, Andres Giron and Jose Maria Ruiz Furlan, who have declared that, "if their people so request, they are willing to leave the priesthood and devote themselves completely to sacrifice on behalf of the nation." Alvaro Aruzu, the capital's mayor, is being mentioned by several parties. Carlos Porras, Coca-Cola's leading concessionaire, is always a precandidate of the Revolutionary Party. In that same party, mention has been made for some time of General Benedicto Lucas, brother of the 1978-82 (overthrown) president, and former Army chief of staff during that period; Francisco Luis Gordillo, ex-member of the 1982 triumvirate, with his Emerging Concord Movement (MEC) party; Abundio Maldonado and his National Advancement Front (FAN), cited again, just as during the 1960's; and Mario Castejon, and his committee on behalf of a Guatemalan Nationalist Party (PANAC). Finally, the retired general and ex-candidate, proclaimed a winner in 1982, Angel Anibal Guevara, has also announced his willingness to participate.

The parties that will be taking part in the electoral process, running presidential candidates, and candidates for deputy, mayor, and other offices, may (currently) be positioned thusly:

- On the extreme right: National Liberation Movement (MLN).
- On the right: Democratic Institutional Party (PID); Solidary Action Movement (MAS); Authentic Nationalist Center (CAN); Nationalist United Front (FUN); Emerging Concord Movement (MEC).
- Right of center: Guatemalan Christian Democracy (DCG); Democratic Party (PD); Reformist National Party (PNR); National Union of the Center (UCN).
- Between left of center and right of center: Revolutionry Party (PR); Democratic Party of National Cooperation (PDCN); Democratic Socialist Party (PSD). In 1988, the latter party expelled the Socialists (the left), and kept the Social Democrats (the right).

The groups currently in the process of becoming established as political parties may be positioned thusly:

- On the extreme right: Guatemalan Nationalist Party (PANAC).
- On the right: Alvaro Arzu's National Advancement Party (PAN); Abundio Maldonado's National Advancement Front (FAN).
- From center to right: Francisco Reyes Ixcamey's Popular Democratic Force (FDP).
- Between left of center and right of center: United Revolutionary Front (FUR), Democratic Action (AD), National Integration Party (PIN), Popular Alliance-5 (AP-5), all Social Christian; Socialist Christian Party (PCS).

Note: Among all the groups established or yet to be established there is no group representing the leftist sectors, virtually "anathematized" since 1954. The last time that legal parties of this orientation operated was during the regime of Jacobo Arbenz (1951-54), which was backed by a coalition of parties ranging from the Marxist left of PGT [Guatemalan Labor Party], the left of the Revolutionary Action Party (PAR), and the moderate left of National Reform (RN) and the Galichist faction of Popular Liberation Front (FPL) to the reformist right of the National Integration Party (PIN).

Following the events of 1954, upon the death of Carlos Castillo Armas in 1957, the current Revolutionary Party appeared, harboring many of the elements belonging to several of those parties. But in 1959 the conservative sectors, headed by the now deceased leader, Mario Mendez Montenegro, expelled the leftist or liberal elements in the party, and since then PR has been fluctuating from one side to the other.

Photo Captions

Christian Democracy's National Executive Committee also recognized President Cerezo's wife, Raquel Blandon de Cerezo, as one of the party's three precandidates.

Even though certain sectors held the view that the founders of the Guatemalan Christian Democracy party were being relegated to less influential positions, the official party also recognized Rene de Leon Schlotter as a precandidate for the presidency.

Another candidate who appears firm is Fernando Andrade Diaz Duran, in a coalition of right of center parties, headed by the Reformist National Party, PNR.

Journalist Jorge Carpio Nicolle, heading his party, UCN, which ranked as the second-most popular party in the last elections, is another participant in the contest.

Mario Solorzano appears as PSD's likely candidate, although there is an internal pro-Andrade campaign in the party.

Juan Jose Rodil Peralta is another figure being mentioned to run for the country's top-ranking office. The party with its eye on him is the newly arrived Democratic Party. His ideas when he was interior minister caused the possibility of his becoming a DCG candidate to be precluded.

Both Father Andres Giron (in the photo) and the controversial Father Chemita have claimed to be willing to "hang up their cassocks" if the people acclaim them as candidates.

Serrano Elias, one of the strongest opponents of the present government, is also present in the battle for the presidency. MAS backs him, although some sectors question his religious activity.

Until several months ago, Cabrera Hidalgo was the only DCG candidate, but the party put the first lady and the development minister beside him. The official candidate should come from among those three.

*** Three More DC Presidential Candidates Emerge**
32480075c Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 21 Jan 89 p 14

[Text] Yesterday, additional presidential precandidates emerged among the ranks of the ruling Christian Democracy [DC] party, now bringing the number of those aspiring to the country's top-ranking office to six, as sources from the aforementioned party reported.

Our informants said that these three new candidates for Christian Democracy's presidential nomination are the finance minister, Rodolfo Paiz Andrade; the former interior minister, Juan Jose Rodil Peralta; and Christian Democracy's ex-secretary general, Danilo Barillas.

These three leaders have sufficient backing within the party in power, and hence their sympathizers will appear within the next few days before the national board of directors, which has already opened registration for precandidates.

The other three precandidates already registered are: DC's secretary general, Alfonso Cabrera Hidalgo; Rene de Leon Schlotter, minister of urban and rural development; and the president's wife, Raquel Blandon de Cerezo.

According to the sources, up until DC's National Board of Directors opened precandidate registration, the candidacy of Cabrera Hidalgo, currently in an open contest for the presidential nomination with the other two precandidates, was thought to be irreversible.

It was noted that the appearance of the new figures, Paiz Andrade, Barillas and Rodil Peralta, puts them at a disadvantage compared with the others aspiring to the nomination because, for the past several months, the latter have been visiting the ranks of the party's bases in order to achieve their aspirations.

Sources from the party itself commented that, of these three new precandidates, the only one apparently having any great chances of really entering the contest is Barillas, DC's former secretary general.

Nicaragua

Government Extends Cease-Fire Until 31 Mar
PA0203165289 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] The Nicaraguan Government has decided to extend its suspension of offensive military operations until 31 March.

A communique issued by the Presidency states that this decision is based on the spirit of the Esquipulas agreement; the Central American presidents' declaration in Alajuela, Costa Rica; and the agreements signed in El Salvador.

This disposition is valid throughout the national territory and does not affect mobilization plans for the defense of the fatherland.

Further on Extension
PA0203130689 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0553 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Managua, 1 Mar (REUTER)—Nicaragua announced today that it will extend for 1 more month the cease-fire initiated 11 months ago in its war against the anti-Sandinist rebels.

The Nicaraguan Government issued a declaration that extends the cease-fire until 31 March to encourage the contra groups to lay down their weapons and to "accept the amnesty and rejoin normal life."

The Sandinist regime has unilaterally extended the cease-fire each month since the 60-day cease-fire negotiated with the contras expired in May.

The rebels have said they will indefinitely respect the cease-fire in the hope of securing permanent peace.

Sporadic clashes have occurred since the truce began.

Nicaragua hopes that an agreement signed at the Central American presidential summit in El Salvador in January will lead to an end of the 8-year civil war.

Five Central American countries agreed to draft a peace plan that includes the dismantling of contra bases in Honduras in exchange for political reforms in Nicaragua.

Ortega Views Venezuela, Criticism of Economy

PA0203130289 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1222 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Statement by President Daniel Ortega in Managua; date not given—recorded]

[Text] We are witnessing a dramatic situation in Venezuela, resulting from the people's reaction to the latest measures. The same reaction has been observed in recent years in various Latin American nations, resulting in hundreds of dead, thousands of wounded, and thousands imprisoned. The policy of U.S. imperialism is responsible for the tension that prevails in Latin America, forcing governments to declare states of emergency, states of siege, and martial law—as has happened in Venezuela.

The capitalist and industrialized countries' policies are also responsible for the situation. Capitalists in these Latin American countries are also responsible because they do not support the measures or share the people's sacrifice. Instead, they sabotage the government's measures and steal the nation's capital; that is, they take the capital and transfer it to U.S. banks, to be invested in U.S. enterprises. This creates decapitalization and worsens the crisis in their respective countries.

In Nicaragua, the right-wing groups, parties, press, and radio stations criticize the economic measures every day. They talk about the disastrous economic situation in Nicaragua every day. The press, which declares itself independent, also talks about this; the same goes for certain economists. They have never picked coffee beans, but they talk a lot about the economy and coffee production. They talk negatively and criticize all the government's actions to save the country's economy. The even launch campaigns and urge the people to revolt against these measures. They do not realize that they are playing with fire when they assume this attitude, and that they would be the first to get burned.

Ortega Letter to Perez Blames IMF, Others

PA0203214889 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 2021 GMT 2 Mar 89

["Text" of message from President Daniel Ortega to Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez; read by Information and Press Minister Manuel Espinoza; date and place not given]

[Text] In view of the painful incidents that have taken place in your country over the past few days, I send you this fraternal message in which I express my deep concern. We know that this is the result of the stiff policies and unfair economic measures that industrialized nations and organizations such as the IMF have imposed on developing nations, especially Latin American and Caribbean nations.

Today it is Venezuela's turn; tomorrow it could well be Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, or any one of the Latin American and Caribbean nations. They are all vulnerable to these types of upheavals. The incidents that have shaken Venezuela and everyone throughout this continent are not uncommon in Third World countries and call for more belligerence and firmness on the part of all governments. Unity is imperative.

With the Latin American spirit of Bolivar and Sandino, the time has come for all governments to unite in their search for a common agreement to face the nasty and unpayable foreign debt, which limits our possibilities for development and our ability to have sufficient resources to meet the basic needs of our peoples, which often leads to painful expressions of civic frustration.

With the hope that you will be able to overcome this difficult time, I hope that ultimately the hard-working Venezuelan people will receive the fruits of all their efforts and sacrifices.
Fraternally,
Daniel Ortega Saavedra

Special Envoy Holds Talks With FRG Leaders

AU0103121689 Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE in German 1 Mar 89 p 6

["P.S." report: "'A Positive Attitude Is Predominant in Bonn'; Nicaraguan Special Envoy Discusses Pacification of the Region"]

[Text] Bonn—Nicaraguan President Ortega has sent a special envoy to Europe to discuss, from his government's point of view, the results of the Central American summit on the pacification of the region. On Monday and Tuesday [27-28 February], special envoy Pasos Marciacq, who represented his country in the FRG until 1983, was in Bonn. He met with Klein, minister of

economic cooperation, and Brandt, president of the Socialist International, as well as other government and party representatives. Pasos Marciacq stated that Bonn's "attitude" toward Nicaragua is predominantly "positive" and that a further opening appears to be possible. Bonn has doubled its aid to repair the damage done by a tropical hurricane from DM3 million to DM6 million; Klein is expected to visit Nicaragua in early June. However, the Federal Government makes additional support contingent on progress in the approach to democracy.

Pasos Marciacq regards what was promised at the El Salvador summit concerning steps toward democracy as the continuation of the revolutionary plan which the Sandinists were not able to carry out because of the war. The three basic principles of pluralism, nonalignment, and a mixed economy are part of the plan, he stated. Now that "there is peace," the project can be continued. For the Sandinists, the most important result of the meeting is that the "counterrevolution has come to an end" and that the anti-Sandinist contras will be disarmed and brought to other regions. However, disarming of the contras is regarded as the greatest difficulty because it has been agreed that this has to be done voluntarily, he said. Managua is also making changes in domestic policy, for example, releasing 2,000 "counterrevolutionaries," subject to progress in this affair. Also, there are plans to soon release 1,700 national guardsmen from Somoza's dictatorship.

The government has already held talks with 10 of the 19 parties, Pasos Marciacq reported. However, these talks are not easy because many different demands and wishes are presented. Some first demand a constitutional change, others the authorization of private television, and others a postponement of the election date. Apparently, the discord between the opposition parties complies with the Sandinists' wishes. Pasos Marciacq made it clear that there will be no constitutional change before the election.

The U.S. policy toward Nicaragua is being watched with hope and uncertainty. Although a basic change is not expected, it has been even more noticeable that there have not been any "aggressive comments" from Washington since Bush assumed office. Meanwhile, the normalization of diplomatic contacts is progressing. Nicaragua still thinks that it pursues its own course between the blocs. Therefore, regarding the situation in Central America, little importance is attached to Soviet state and party leader Gorbachev's forthcoming visit to Cuba. There, the problems between Cuba and the Soviet Union will be dealt with, it has been said. Nicaragua maintains good but "critical" relations with the Socialist International. The Swedish model is President Ortega's example for the order of social structures, although Nicaragua is not Sweden. Regarding economic regulation, Managua wants to follow the "laws of the market, as has already been done in the past few years"; however, "according to clear rules." Pasos Marciacq left it open as to what these rules are.

"The economic situation in Nicaragua is very bad," Pasos Marciacq openly admits. Hopes to improve it are directed toward Europe. So far, Europe's commitment has not been very strong in Central America, but conditions should be created to make more intensive cooperation possible. Most of all, the increased promotion of agricultural and agro-industrial projects is desired.

Nicaragua is tied to Cuba by intensive military cooperation. However, the level of military aid is smaller than it is often asserted, he said. "We have heard figures," Pasos Marciacq stated, "according to which we would have so many weapons that we could not find room for them in our country." Nicaragua feels threatened by the United States; allegedly, the presence of U.S. soldiers in the neighboring countries makes drastic disarmament impossible at the moment. However, "we need military aid least and economic aid most," the special envoy stated in Bonn.

Newspaper Poll Implies Sandinist Victory

PA0203153689 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] According to a poll by the weekly LA CRONICA, the Sandinists would win by a broad margin if the elections were held right now.

LA PRENSA Editor Discusses Press Freedom

PA0203191889 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1130 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Interview with LA PRENSA editor Pablo Antonio Cuadra by Marta Garcia; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Garcia] Now that you have returned from a trip abroad, can you analyze the situation in Nicaragua? The people read your insightful editorials. Can you make an analysis of the country's situation? What has caught your attention the most?

[Cuadra] I saw the country's situation from afar through the eyes of people living in exile. I was deeply moved by how many and how poor they are. The poorest people are leaving the country. It is cruel for a country when its workers, peasants, and others have to leave for another country as different and difficult as the United States. Concurrent with this very pessimistic vision, the El Salvador summit was held. Earlier, the Esquipulas meeting had taken place. This is what I want to say: All the analysis we can make and Nicaragua's entire situation comes down to one verb—to keep.

If Daniel Ortega keeps his word, the situation will improve. If he does not, it will deteriorate. That is the simplest and most precise analysis I can make. I think a nation has a basic human right: the right to the truth. If people are promised something, that promise should be kept. That is what I expect from President Ortega. If he has given his word, not once but three times, he has the

duty to keep it. To keep his word means a change for Nicaragua. Otherwise, we will not have a change but a deterioration of the situation. As I told you, in Miami and Texas I was able to see the poverty and horror of the exiles. It reminded me of the scenes of the Managua earthquake, when everybody fled in vans and carts, taking their belongings with them. Those poor Nicaraguan people are crossing rivers barefoot, getting arrested, waiting to be taken across the border.

For example, a man told me he sold his house and used the money to leave. As he crossed Mexico he was robbed. When he arrived in Texas he was a beggar. He was penniless. This man had decided to take the great risk of entering a foreign country without speaking the language. I think the Nicaraguans' situation should break the hearts of all those politicians who talk so much for the people.

[Garcia] Mr Cuadra, 1 March is Press Day. What do you feel is the journalist's role in the very polarized situation that exists here and the serious economic, political, and social crisis we are experiencing?

[Cuadra] Your question in many instances depends on what the government does or does not do. If the government allows the press to work—we have been censured many times—I think one of the things the Nicaraguan press must do is prevent a polarization of the situation in Nicaragua so Nicaraguans can understand each other. Are we civilized people or barbarians? The official newspapers face the problems as if we were decendants of the old Greek militaritic system, Spartan militarism. They are Spartans. How can a country such as Nicaragua have the army it has? How can it employ a military vocabulary where everything is settled through violent means?

I think the press must counter that by paying a price and suffering. However, the journalists' civic duty is to civilize Nicaragua. Militarism amounts to barbarity.

[Garcia] There are now discussions on reforms to the news media law, as a result of the agreements of the Central American summit. What do you think the news media law should be?

[Cuadra] I have been asked that question for 50 years, since I have been working for LA PRENSA. Anastasio Somoza Garcia, Luis Somoza, and Anastasio Somoza Debayle asked me that question. The answer if very simple: The best news media law is the one that does not exist. There is no reason why we must have a news media law. Journalists are human beings. Therefore, they are subject to all Nicaraguan laws. If one commits a crime, there is a code that states the ways to handle and punish slander. Anything journalists do can be found in the legal codes. Why discriminate against them by punishing and curtailing their actions? There is no reason for that to exist. The idea of a news media law already coerces, restricts, and diminishes the freedom we must have but do not. I more strongly demand freedom in a country such as Nicaragua because this country gave birth to Ruben Dario. It is ridiculous to be afraid of words in a country that gave birth to Ruben Dario.

[Garcia] Can you tell us about the situation of contemporary literature in Nicaragua and the work published after 1980?

[Cuadra] Our work is to publish someone else's works, particularly independent writers, and—in a way that could be described as negative—create the proper climate for true, apolitical literature. To strip literature of political influence is one way to restore its freedom. This is what we publishers of literature have been trying to do. We have lived under a number of dictatorships, but we have tried to recover freedom for literature. We have succeeded in the most adverse conditions, such as those we encountered during the times of the two Somoza's. We have created powerful literature and art in Nicaragua.

Panama

Opposition Parties Hold March Through Capital

PA0303011989 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2350 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] The Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance [ADOC] political parties held a march through Panama City this afternoon. The march, dubbed a march for human rights and free elections, began on Via Argentina and was held after a permit had been requested from the Panama City Municipal Council.

In addition to the ADOC parties, civic associations and business groups also participated in the march, which took place with no incidents. Antigovernment slogans were chanted at the march, the first political demonstration since the start of the election campaign and since the government banned street demonstrations for allegedly ending in violence.

The march, announced a week ago by the democratic opposition, was held at the same time a OAS Human Rights Commission delegation is visiting our country to investigate alleged human rights violations.

The opposition march continued along Central Avenue until it reached 5th of May Square. During the march, demonstrators waved white flags and flags of the Christian Democratic Party, MOLIRENA [Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement], and the Authentic Liberal Party. Demostrators also shouted slogans and carried antigovernment placards. Opposition candidates Guillermo Ford, Ricardo Arias Calderon, and Guillermo Endara walked with their followers during the entire march this afternoon, and they personally greeted citizens attending this opposition demonstration.

The crowd that marched through Panama City and neighboring areas was termed by some as an expression of the Panamanian people's repressed political feelings. Thousands of persons took to the streets of Panama City in a rally the likes of which had not been seen for a long time. The crowd waved thousands of flags and posters during this march for human rights and free elections in Panama. ADOC politicians marched in front of each of the groups they represent, waving white handckerchiefs and shouting: Justice and freedom.

The ADOC demonstration was characterized by thousands of flags representing opposition political parties, as well as the traditional white flag of the opposition. The crowd and the enthusiasm increased at 5th of May Square. Once the march reached Justo Arosemena Avenue, where a stage had been set up near the Adan Gordon swimming pool, the evidence of support for the opposition ticket increased, with slogans calling for democracy, justice, and freedom. Several OAS Human Rights Commission representatives observed this demonstration.

Despite the lack of public transportation, the Panamanian people showed once again their desire to live in a country where they can express their views, where individual rights are respected, and where there is democracy and a legal government.

Solis Palma Opens Legislative Assembly Session
PA0203021789 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2321 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Speech by Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Presidency, to open the fifth Legislative Assembly session at the Legislative Palace in Panama City—live]

[Text] Good afternoon. Before reading my message, I have the essential duty of pointing out that the opening of this legislature is happening at the same time as we are hearing the news of another man killed and two more wounded by a hostile military presence located at the core of our territory. This is a painful confirmation that the search for our national liberation is a fair cause.

In memory of our compatriot fallen in Nuevo Emperador yesterday, I ask you very respectfully to offer 1 minute of silence. [1 minute of silence observed]

Thank you very much. Legislative Assembly President Honorable Legislator Gustavo Celso Carrizo Medrano and honorable legislators; Supreme Court President Magistrate Marisol Reyes de Vazquez and honorable magistrates; ministers and deputy ministers; comptroller general and deputy comptroller general; Panama Defense Forces [FDP] General Staff members; Your Excellency Apostolic Nuncio Msgr Jose Sebastian Laboa; members of the distinguished diplomatic body and representatives of international organizations accredited to Panama; attorney general; Electoral Tribunal President Magistrate Yolanda Pulice de Rodriguez and honorable magistrates; directors and subdirectors of decentralized institutions; governors of the various provinces; honorable mayors of Panama and San Miguelito Districts; President of the Peoples' Government Omar Quintero; presidents of provincial coordination councils; special guests; members of the local and foreign press; ladies and gentlemen:

I have now completed over 1 year of exercising my duties as president of the Republic. I have resisted determinedly, with dignity and moderation, the many local and foreign hostile pressures and actions within dangerous and austere circumstances. No previous Panamanian Government ever experienced such circumstances. [applause]

As the Constitution establishes, once again I am here to present a report to the Legislative Assembly on public administration affairs. The ability the government team has shown to put our country on its feet again must be a source of pride and hope for our people. The imminent ruin and destruction of our nation are beginning to look like a nightmare from which we are waking up. We, however, are waking up with more firmness as a more realistic, more reasonable, and more resolute people than before. We are now ready to go through the 10 years and 10 months that separate us from the end of our generational struggle without yielding or flagging.

To succeed in keeping a small country with such limited resources alive despite such a persistent and relentless pursuit is something that will be described in Panamanian history as a struggle of collective heroism, bravery, dedication, and faith. We owe praise, recognition, and gratitude to the members of the legislative and judicial branches, the FDP, public employees, workers in general, and to members of the peoples organizations.

The U.S. Government's economic and political aggression has seriously affected our economy, public finances, and the banking system, with grave repercussions on the development of all activities that promote progress. The result of all of this has been a curb on productive activity and a 43-percent drop in fiscal revenues compared to amounts collected the year before. Consumption has noticibly lowered. Public and private investments have contracted to the point that some activities, such as construction, have practically been paralyzed.

The economic result of this situation is reflected in a 20-percent drop in the GNP and an increase in the unemployment rate, which went from 11 percent in 1987 to 20 percent in 1988, thus greatly harming the neediest, the dispossessed, who are the huge majority of Panamanians. The government has suffered the systematic implementation of a strategy of economic and political destabilization, including the rebellion of a group of officers that was quickly subdued. All that subversive activity notwithstanding, we have preserved calm and no victims have been reported, thanks to the prudence and serenity of the public order forces.

During most of the year of my administration, the government's priority task was to face the difficult situation with the people's interests in mind and with a nationalist spirit, and to restructure as much as possible the economy and public finances. We tried out and established new formulas to cope with the difficulties. Putting aside traditional methods, we solved the problem of a lack of circulating cash. We managed to pay the wages of government officials and the pensions of retirees. Most important, we maintained employment for government workers.

With great effort, we have improved the main public services—power, water, and telephone services—by establishing new power and water lines and telephone service in a significant number of communities.

The school year, which had to start late, has been completed entirely, and over half a million Panamanians received the benefits of a normal education process which, in April 1988, many believed to be an impossible dream.

The private sector has to admit that maintaining the government payroll by sacrificing operational expenses and the resources necessary to meet the people's demands has been a decisive factor in preventing a situation of generalized ruin.

Although most large-scale farmers refused to begin the planting season, and despite the natural disasters that occurred in several parts of the country, we were able to maintain the production level of most agricultural products. We were able to do this by providing production materials and fuel on credit as part of a contingency plan that had the enthusiastic support of our middle-level and small farmers and cattlemen.

We have guaranteed the sugarcane harvest at the state's sugar mills for this year, thus preserving the jobs of many Panamanians. Moreover, we have been providing assistance to a large number of dispossessed compatriots through a food bag program that helps over 6,000 families every month—a significant demonstration that the national government has remained at the vanguard of the defense against the aggression. With great effort, we have improved the garbage collection service in San Miguelito, Panama, and Colon. We have just begun a program to maintain Panama's highways, roads, and streets.

Moreover, the gradual normalization of the banks' operations and services constitutes an example of the successful functioning of one of the most basic aspects of our concept of public and private sector cooperation. The agreement between private and state bankers on each of the measures adopted at the Banking Commission prevented depositors' runs and widespread bankruptcies, while it protected the funds of thousands of Panamanians and foreigners who otherwise would have had huge losses. Although some may be biased in favor of the movement that almost destroyed them, they must now admit the government always acted mindful of the interests of everyone, with utmost seriousness and a high sense of duty.

The faith these actions have generated in the community can also be seen in the fact that government checks are now generally accepted. This happened because seriousness and responsibility have prevailed in the handling of government activities.

Economists and experts everywhere cannot explain how this important sector in our economy was saved. These achievements were not the result of miracles or magic. The reason for this success has been the support of the people's organizations and public employees for the defense of the nation and their awareness that difficulties came from abroad. With imagination, commitment, and the work of countless Panamanians, we have resisted, we have survived, and we will continue. [applause]

Fellow countrymen, our government thus far has made a great effort in safeguarding the country's integrity and peace. Since we have accomplished that goal, we will now try to implement measures aimed at improving the living conditions of the Panamanian people and meeting the most pressing needs of the community. Based on this, the government is determined to continue meeting the obligations of the administration, especially concerning basic services such as health, education, and safety.

On this occasion, we will not meet the expectations of some—that the government will be paralyzed during the election campaign, which is what most often happened in the past. I want to strongly warn you that this will not happen. On the contrary, we will not slacken the pace and breadth of our work; instead, we will do more each day. The harsh reality, known by all thinking citizens, is that we cannot afford the luxury of paralyzing the government's actions under the current circumstances. In this process of recovery, inaction can jeopardize a lot of gained ground. [applause]

Once the stability of public employees is protected under the law of the administrative professions [ley de carrera administrativa], which we will once again submit to this honorable Legislative Assembly, [applause] the greatest effort made by the government and a large share of the government's resources will be aimed at redeeming men, women, and children and strengthening the nation's economic groundwork.

There will be a careful review of the laws regulating banking activities with the purpose of strengthening the financial center by correcting any weak points and promoting greater expansion as quickly as possible. Commercial activities will be strengthened with the construction of outlying markets in Colon, San Miguelito, and Panama. Moreover, we will soon implement a

low-income housing project for $10 million to provide many Panamanians with a roof and to reactivate the construction sector. [applause]

We will also continue to support the agriculture sector by seeking self-sufficiency and the exportation of surplus. For example, we will promote coffee production. The necessary conditions to increase coffee exports exist. To accomplish this, we will implement a clearer and more precise policy with the participation of producers, owners of coffee mills, and exporters.

For decades our economy has been like a closed fan laid over the canal, with its edges in Panama City and Colon. We still have a lot of unproductive and uninhabited lands. Agrarian reform has partially changed the structure of land ownership by means of land title deeds, which should be more extensive. Agrarian reform has thus far distributed over 27,000 land ownership titles, but we have to help the peasant landowners produce much more than what they consume so they can achieve better living conditions.

We will open up new lands for production and tap unused resources that are only waiting for seeds and work to yield abundant production. If we do this, there will be no food shortages in any home. This is the challenge that everyone in the agriculture sector must meet. It is necessary to understand that it is only when peasant families cease being considered cheap labor that we will truly rescue human dignity and give democracy its real meaning. [applause]

We will find solutions to the problems caused by the aggression with imagination, enthusiasm, and work. This is also the right moment for us to overcome the backwardness we have been suffering since the birth of the Republic.

Despite this, I must point out that we are facing a problem in public administration. It is the attitude of those who were so used to an abundance of resources that the current lack of certain equipment makes them think it is impossible to carry out certain tasks. Some of these people believe nothing can be done now, because it is no longer possible to carry out large projects.

We must restore importance to small projects; to efforts that are not spectacular; to work done with available resources and even with improvised resources. We have made progress in the past 12 months, but there is a long path before us.

Compatriots, as we approach the elections my biggest concern is the lack of understanding regarding important matters at stake. The polarization of the debate on various concepts of democracy, on various appraisals of the role of the military in society, and on providing the people with the dubious option of dictatorship or freedom are demagogic political maneuvers to avoid the real debate on economic development that concerns all sectors and has the potential to provide real opportunities for all. These political maneuvers are a decrepit economic model that places a minority in power, barters with our independence to achieve goals, and concentrates the distribution of wealth among a few. [applause]

At stake are the principles of broad participation in government; of social justice viewed as a human right and not as a charitable action; of a strong government favoring the majority by having nationalized public utility companies; and of the FDP as a factor of progress identified with the people's causes, not as a police force to persecute the poor who are organizing themselves and struggling to satisfy pressing demands. [applause]

We will pay special attention to holding orderly general elections while keeping in mind at all times the divisive and destabilizing threats that are still lurking. We are prepared and determined to confront plots and the meddling of nations, organizations, or people having nothing to do with the objective of Panamanians deciding the fate of Panama. [applause]

I hope this election campaign and the elections themselves will take place within a honorable framework of respect accompanied by the necessary polite tone during the campaign. The excesses of the 1968 political debate left behind very deep scars and set lamentable precedents that we must avoid at all costs.

Those who are used to making insulting accusations and slanderous statements need a good dose of reflection and cautious realism, because we are a small country where we all know each other. [applause]

The national government is being criticized. It is said we suffer from insufficient democracy. I wish to reiterate various essential concepts to shed light on the nation's political reality: There is a democratic system in Panama that allows citizens to exercise civil liberties. These have not been, are not, and will not be the exclusive right of anyone. Here, as elsewhere, there are rules for peaceful coexistence. Respect for those rules is necessary for the existence of society. Individual rights are fully exercised. They are exercised through political activities to the extent that public order has been disturbed on many occasion. Those who are crying that civil liberties do not exist know best to what extent they have been allowed to abuse these civil liberties. [applause]

Few countries have experienced critical situations such as the one we have experienced in Panama for the past 20 months without bloodshed, without having to mourn dead, and with only a slight enforcement of public order laws. This is thanks to the professionalism of the FDP and the tolerance of the authorities. [applause]

Even in the most advanced democracies, the reestablishment of order after similar disturbances would not have been possible without many dead and wounded, in

addition to the imposition of very severe jail sentences. Nothing prevents those who are abroad for political reasons from returning to the country. Those who have trials pending, however, will have to submit to the criminal procedures established by our laws. [applause]

There are no political prisoners in Panama. The soldiers in prison are not political prisoners. As in any part of the civilized world, a soldier is responsible for his actions. [applause]

There is no other alternative to a democratic system that is truly solid, stable, and institutionalized. There is no country where a soldier who participates in a rebellion is automatically freed, because law and order would be exposed to constant danger. There is severe punishment for such conduct in all countries. Judging us by false standards is not correct, just, or balanced. [applause]

The political parties, and especially those who support the government, have the principal obligation to educate the voters, especially the young, about the background of the present political contest. They should stress that the choices are returning to the past or making the changes that will lead to the nation's political liberation and to the economic liberation of the neglected majority.

Honorable legislators, the trauma of 1987 made the choices clear to our people. It is not just a question of raising the banner of completing our liberation. We must also raise the neglected banner of the great social demands. We must place that struggle on its own footing and start on the path of an effective and broad social justice. Achieving economic independence is imperative. We must increase relations with other suppliers and other markets to provide a more rational set of options for our development. Without the economic liberation of the masses, we do not only expose the liberation of Panama to great risk, but the struggle itself would lose its basic significance. The values of independence and sovereignty and the need to defend those values are the bases of a future Panamanian society that is more prosperous, dignified, and humane.

We cannot permit the majority of the population to remain subjected to neglect and indigence because a local or foreign minority needs to get richer without any great risk or effort. Opulence based on misery is the most fertile incubator of social upheaval. [applause]

The proposed society that I present is based on the valuable experience of the recent past and on the concrete reality of our country, which is undergoing a renewal to achieve the urgent goal of the social and economic progress that the nation demands. Let us remember that Panama is a country equally urban and rural, with a domestic and international economy and modern and ancient technology. Half the population is rural and the other half lives in the cities. Many Panamanians have an exceptional capacity for work. Due to their education and experience, some can compete in the most advanced fields. Others, due to their working habits and aptitude for training, can dedicate themselves to traditional production activities, which can offer more individual and collective benefits than in the past.

The present infrastructure of our economy must be reinforced: The Colon Free Zone, the banking center, the merchant marine, the corporation law, and the incentive laws, among other things, must be strengthened. But they should be strengthened in a manner that will not distract us from the imperative need to produce by basing ourselves on our concrete reality and without distorting our national identity.

Today agriculture, the exploitation of forests, and fishing produce only 10 percent of our national income, and just over 25 percent of the population works in the fields. Consequently, we have a strong imbalance in production and, above all, a serious inequality in the distribution of income, which mainly affects our peasants and farmers. To correct this injustice, we must strengthen our policy of increasing productivity by ensuring that more appropriate production techniques are used and by providing adequate financing to producers.

The manufacturing sector, which represents almost 10 percent of production and total employment, requires special policies for the defense of the employment it generates, emphasizing technological modernization to improve the quality of Panamanian products for the local market as well as for their enhanced acceptability on the international market. The latter is an aspect in which we have progressed, but in which we must advance even more rapidly.

As a main element to promote progress, we must increase our support for the small business sector, whose functions go beyond a specific economic activity, whether it is an agricultural, artisan, industrial, or business activity. The transport, service, and business economy requires vigorous and careful attention in view of the challenges the current situation and the country's future impose on us.

The economy based on business activities, services, and transportation—which generates over three-fourths of the national wealth and employs more than half the country's labor force—has a certain and undeniable advantage, especially regarding education and training. The support for that economy is an excellent basis to guarantee the success of the implementation of development programs in those sectors through the use of current, technical advances, which will help increase those sectors' income.

The investment of funds in infrastructure such as the modernization of our ports and railroad and the economic development of the most valuable reverted areas will accelerate progress, which will have to be adapted to the traditions and professional and business abilities of an increasing number of Panamanians.

We must carry out a plan that will turn the reverted areas into authentic productive areas that will produce collective benefits. The development of those areas and facilities that were part of the Panama Canal Zone—a valuable state patrimony and the first great achievement of the generational struggle—cannot be postponed.

The Panama Canal is a vital part of maritime transportation and our main support for the development of world trade. As such, we must provide it with the best possible competitive conditions by adapting it to the evolution of international transportation systems.

During my recent trip to Japan, where I attended the funeral of Japanese Emperor Hirohito, I met with the Japanese prime minister, leaders of the ruling party, and important personalities in the financial world. I confirmed their interest in begining an expansion of Gaillard Cut as soon as possible. That project cannot be postponed because of disagreements between Panama and the United States, as those works will benefit the international community. [applause]

In Japan I also noticed great interest regarding the future of interoceanic communication through our country and Japan's vehement desire to continue actively participating in studies for alternatives to the Panama Canal.

Compatriots, I do not want fratricidal struggle in my homeland. In my heart and in the memories of my life, I maintain the conviction that the first and essential meaning of democracy resides in the prevalence of the social welfare of the majority above all privileges. I am convinced that true democracy is built and improved little by little. In that process, democracy discards traitors, the corrupt, and the greedy and reduces the gap between those who have more and those who have less. In that process, democracy raises the humble so that they occupy the place in society to which they are entitled and so they love and form a family in which their children are raised with pride and dignity. [applause]

The process through which other Latin American democracies have appeared is different than ours. In Panama, our democracy comes from our own characteristics and idiosyncrasies. Since the end of World War II, many peoples' pangs for redemption have been repressed and suppressed again and again by truly tyrannical regimes. Many democracies have appeared after periods of collective repression that have been installed to protect unsustainable privileges and to destroy from the roots the combativeness of peoples organizations that demanded a fairer distribution of wealth. The democratic system practiced here is one that allows the people to participate in the government's decisions. When those decisions are made based on the consensus of all sectors, then we have a direct, participative, and functional democracy. And our government has done that constantly. [applause]

This is not a democracy with a foreign twist that some people are clamoring for, in their desire to concentrate power in a minority while the people are isolated from the decisionmaking process and from government decisions. With a direct democracy, one that involves permanent consultations, we have achieved a significant resurgence in small communities, social progress for many poor Panamanians, and the elimination of discriminations. In addition, the people have been brought closer to the daily exercise of power.

Today, thanks to that substantive democracy, the everyday citizen, the peasant, has instant access to the telephone, electricity, potable water, to a standard of living that once seemed like an unattainable luxury to him. Today this humble man from the countryside or city has a school for his children—elementary and secondary school—he at least has a minimum of medical services, a better house, and a new outlook for his future, which usually leads to behavior that is both acceptable and entirely new. He now goes directly to his representatives, legislators, officials, and rulers. He is no longer the subordinated laborer working for the town leader. This man has won the most important thing: He has won his dignity. [applause]

Democracy, which we must continue to strengthen, springs from our reality and has not been nourished at the expense of the people's wretchedness. These principles form part of our convictions, and we will never distance ourselves from them. We will remain intransigent toward those who are trying to restore a formal, false, and exclusive democracy that only maintains and defends certain economic and social sectors.

I wish to insist on a truth that is part of our political and social situation: All attempted reforms, all important actions aimed at improving living conditions and at providing opportunities to achieve progress for the majority have always faced the great obstacle of institutionalized privileges.

Fortunately, the governments that have succeeded each other during the past 20 years have used dialogue and concerted efforts as their weapons to eliminate domestic and foreign servitude in order to achieve social progress without bloodshed. Fratricidal massacres and violence, which are daily occurences so close to Panama, have not been able to infiltrate our borders, thanks to our peaceful nature and the professionalism and sense of responsibility of our FDP, whose members—acting within the framework of a very Panamanian military doctrine—saw in the military profession an obligation to side with the neglected majorities. [applause]

In light of the growth problems we are currently confronting, the diversity and urgency of the demands for development, and considering the difficult task of consolidating our sovereignty, the military is not only the principal organization that is aware of the nationalistic struggle, but it also can greatly help in the solution of

difficult national problems. We can attest to the fact that they [FDP members] have done this with exemplary dedication during this past year of intense work, when the civilian government's efforts received the permanent support of the FDP and its commander, General Manuel Antonio Noriega. [applause]

Compatriots: We are now at a crucial point in our history, and the primary duty of each citizen is to become aware of the real situation, of its origins and the nature of the options available to us. The sacrifices that we have made and the dangers that have gathered against the Panamanian nation have forced us to learn our lessons at a very high cost. We have experienced 1 year of painful economic, political, and social lessons. We have acquired valuable experiences on our path to achieve national liberation. We have tapped the imagination that springs from the Panamanian people's creativity. We have begun to alter the unilateral nature of our international relations. We have stepped on new soil. We have managed to cross new boundaries. That amazing accumulation of new ideas, which help us advance and achieve progress, must become the permanent guide for our future actions. It is neither permissible nor excusable for the Panamanian nation to again resort to behavior, mechanisms, and practices that limited our economic life before the aggression.

We cannot condone the use of lies to hide the true causes of the difficulties and hardships Panamanians are suffering. The promises of a prompt solution to all problems are unrealistic because they do not respond to reality.

Economists from many countries and economists at financial organizations and international centers who have studied the upheaval in our economy and our country's economic outlook have agreed that solving our problems will depend exclusively on our constant efforts and hard work.

Honorable legislators, history teaches us that prosperity stemming from the remnants of a colonial system never reaches the downtrodden and benefits only a few.

The prosperity we build based on our own efforts, with full independence and a fair distribution of resources, will be long-lasting and just.

From the current process of recovery, let us begin to create better conditions for the majority of Panamanians, overcoming the current inequities and repeating at every stage of the struggle a resounding: Colony, no! Thank you very much. [applause]

Noriega Speaks to Corregimiento Representatives

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[Report on speech by General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander of the Panama Defense Forces, at a meeting with Herrera and Los Santos Province corregimiento representatives in Santo Domingo, Los Santos Province; date not given—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] The corregimiento representatives of Herrera and Los Santos Provinces met with General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], in Santo Domingo, Los Santos Province. The meeting was held to evaluate the programs implemented in the past 5 years, current needs, and matters of interest related to the 7 May elections. The meeting was held at the house of Fermin Herrera, president of the Santo Domingo Municipal Council. The corregimiento representatives expressed their concerns about the elections, stressing that unity is the best way to achieve victory.

At the beginning of his speech, General Noriega referred to the creation of the office of corregimiento representative and that representative's resemblance to the military:

[Noriega] "We spoke with Fermin, who is a leader concerned about the doctrine of the representation of the communities itself [10-second break in reception] the organization of the revolutionary process. Perhaps we military men understand the revolutionary process much better because it was established like a military organization. Our organization begins with the squad, which comprises 11 men; it then moves to the platoon, the company, the battalion, the division, and the brigade. In a war zone, the basic thing in a military organization is the man who will seize the terrain. You can have an air force, but with an air force alone you will not win a war, because you need infantrymen to seize and hold positions. An air force can have great destructive capability, but it cannot stay in the air all the time.

"Our candidates always represented their communities. The community leaders with the greatest support are those who come here, go there, and persistently work in their communities."

Regarding the system of representation, the commander in chief said:

[Noriega] "This system of representation was rejected by the groups. They are the ones who, through a constitutional change, made the assembly of corregimiento representatives disappear as the guiding body of a democratic political leadership. That assembly was destroyed by opposition politicians. Those politicians created a traditional legislative assembly whose deputies can be easily manipulated. There was a loss because of the lack of knowledge or awareness of the reality of the corregimiento representative. However, the corregimiento representative was not destroyed when a Legislative Assembly replaced the

assembly of corregimiento representatives. He remains relevant, and it would be very hard to destroy him. As Darinel [Espino, Democratic Revolutionary Party secretary general] or [Health Minister] Dr Francisco Sanchez said, one of the disparaging remarks to discredit and belittle the assembly of representatives was that it was an assembly of ignorant people. But the communities no longer were being ignored after the corregimiento representatives were created, and a man does not need to go to a school or a university to become a man who is followed by the communities and who solves their problems.

"We had wanted to hold this meeting with your two provinces so that it would be easier to communicate with you. If we had held a meeting with all the provinces, it would have led to confusion as in the past, when we had been unable to reach effective conclusions."

Regarding the role of the representatives who will be elected by popular vote in the May elections, Gen Noriega said:

[Noriega] "We have learned many facts this afternoon. The basic fact, however, is the awareness of those who are the representatives of the people and the communities. Knowledge about the doctrine itself of this work makes us state here today to you, representatives of Herrera and Los Santos Provinces, that in the next government, this assembly of representatives will have some type of more active and relevant representation. We will reorganize structures. We will reorganize legislative and state structures to bring them up to date with reality. The reality of resistance is the community. The reality of supplies is the community. The reality of leadership is the representative of that community. Therefore, with Dr Cesar Rodriguez Maylin [former Civil Aeronautics director] and others who have knowledge of this and who have experience in the establishment of the office of corregimiento representative, we are going to seek the methods and the organization so that in the new government, corregimiento representatives will have the utmost relevance and a better role.

"The defect lies in the mechanisms. There should be a mechanism that will permit the corregimiento representative to have more input into solutions. There should be a mechanism that will make the government take the corregimiento representative more into account. This way, the government will not jump to another level, thinking that legislators can find all solutions. The legislators have one function, and the representatives have another basic function. By forgetting the basic function, we see that the higher level, the Legislative Assembly, is not finding all the solutions, because the individual and the community are missing. That is why I think we are profiting from the moment you take interest in and give importance to the political struggle in which you are involved. It is a gain as a result of the awareness.

"I do not know if the opposition candidates have just been nominated to fill up space or are the result of some divisions. But the conclusion I reach is that the greatest leadership comes from the progovernment side. That is why there are more candidates from this side—because there are more leaders. It is easy to nominate a leader, but it is very hard to oust leaders like you, because each holds on to his position. This is one of the realities faced by the party leaders. They also have to act without individualism. They have to act as a team."

The FDP commander in chief said the impetus for change in these elections is the corregimiento representative. He added:

[Noriega] "The representatives will be the impetus of change. The Panamanian state cannot continue operating on the basis of the same ministries created 20 years ago. For example, there is the Labor and Social Welfare Ministry, which is one of the newest ones. We see that social welfare is different from labor affairs. What is social welfare? It is a series of activities dealing with mothers, orphans, the deprived, and other aspects that should not fall under a ministry that is in charge of labor affairs. Such examples should lead to a new Republic and government. The support system for the countryside and for the peasants should be changed. One has to go through many agencies, many departments, and much paperwork to obtain credits, support [10-second break in reception] the rural areas, the provinces, which prevented the lack of supplies for the cities. It was not magic. Although the big supermarket chains closed their doors, the people had no need for them, because there were farmers markets. From where did the farmers markets get their supplies? From the work of 1 and 2 years by all these communities you represent, from Darien to Chiriqui and Bocas del Toro Provinces."

Stressing the importance of the corregimiento representative, the basic political unit, Gen Noriega said:

[Noriega] "We see that this is the basic thing. In the next campaign, in other words, in the next government, in the elections, the real liberation movement begins here, in the basic unit of the combat squad that will win over the community. From there, we will move to the other levels of work. The FDP will never give up that work in the community. They will never give up that work with those leaders. The FDP will never give up their ability to serve the communities, working with them as part of the military man-community man team. We have had great experiences with this in these two provinces where the community and the military have become integrated. The people give the soldiers food, and the soldiers work all day to build roads or waterworks.

"I think all of you have to urge on this team of oxen. If you try to separate the team, you will lose your election. We will continue meeting with other districts, telling the representatives the same thing so as to give importance to this system of representation. We will also intervene

concerning the requests that were made for the normal and usual allocations that the state should provide as a source of support for the consolidation of your leadership. The only judge is the population in the area where you are leaders. [applause]"

FDP Views Military Participation in Dialogue

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[From the "In-Depth Commentary" segment of the Panama Defense Forces' "Everything for the Fatherland" program: "An Open-Door Institution"]

[Text] A few days ago, our commander in chief and his general staff were visited by the National Liberation Coalition candidates. On that occasion, General Manuel Antonio Noriega invited all groups to discuss and assess national perspectives and solutions within a strictly Panamanian framework.

The Authentic Panamenist Party accepted this invitation and a pragmatic discussion took place.

The men in uniform sat at the same table with leaders of a party with a long history in Panama. These men in uniform had no reservations or objections to sitting at this table; and because our Panama Defense Forces [FDP] do not exclude anyone, the dialogue reaffirmed the principle that Panama's uniformed men, because of their training and experience, can deal with the subjects required to find solutions for peace, thus honoring their military heritage.

In other areas of our hemisphere, those who serve the fatherland limit themselves to staying within their garrisons. In Panama, the FDP plays an important role as a flexible and guiding element. We are not afraid of ideologies because the basic principles behind the country's overall liberation are deeply rooted. We do not exclude any group.

We are all Panamanians, and in the exchange of views, dogmatic intransigence—which could have been an insurmountable obstacle—has finally turned into positive agreements.

The wisdom and devotion to service that each man in uniform has is a solid moral structure that does not deteriorate. On the contrary, it increases with dialogue.

This dialogue is a new precedent that Panama is showing to the peoples of our race. Recently a group of Washington political experts drafted a thorough study noting that Argentina should invite the military to take up public responsibilities because the cooperation between soldiers and civilians is the most dynamic and fruitful basis of support for a modern democracy.

We assumed that responsibility guided by our late leader General Omar Torrijos and continued under the bold, evolutionary, and prodevelopment command of General Noriega.

Other military institutions may need many years and much education to imitate this process. The armed forces are part of the nation. They are active parts of society. We are a highly qualified resource. No developing country can push aside such a valuable resource because of past prejudices.

Common and urgent problems are very complex and they need to be solved by soldiers, civilians, professionals, businessmen, investors, workers, peasants, and farmers.

Panama has left behind old prejudices that weaken, instead of strengthen, democracy. Our doors will remain open.

We are convinced that when Panamanians sit down to discuss our problems, solutions, alternatives, and new methods appear. Our style, no doubt, is the style of the future. We are not patterned after stereotypes. We make changes and innovations without fears, prejudices, mistrust, or by taking steps backwards. There is one Panama, and it belongs to all Panamanians.

Civic Crusade Leader Comments on Elections

PA2702135389 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] Aurelio Barria, former president of the Chamber of Commerce and a National Civic Crusade leader, opened a forum in Caracas, Venezuela yesterday entitled: Panama, Democracy or Continuum. The forum is being attended by Latin American political leaders. After summarizing the Panamanian political situation, Aurelio Barria emphasized that conditions are not right and there is not a true interest in finding a solution to the crisis or for achieving a national agreement.

The EFE report adds that Barria pointed out that under the present conditions, and without a genuine political agreement for yielding, sharing, or turning over power, the elections become a fragile and weak instrument that run the serious risk of being canceled if they become a strong means of national mobilization for the opposition.

Commentary Views U.S. Troops in Costa Rica

PA2702201389 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 Feb 89

["The World Today" commentary by Luis Manuel Martinez: "Point of Aggression"]

[Text] Dr Ana Cecilia Escalante, dean of the School of Social Sciences of the University of Costa Rica, toured the southern region of her country yesterday and made statements in which she reported that the United States

is secretly occuping Costa Rican soil militarily. We already have Honduras under the Yankee boot, now it seems to be Costa Rica's turn.

Escalante toured the southern region and, upon her return to the capital, reported to local media that the engineering forces that have been deployed to the region carry weapons, which disproves the statements by the Pentagon that the troops and officers are unarmed. Likewise, Escalante added that Golfito Airport is closed to Costa Rican planes and that only airplanes bringing in U.S. troops, weapons, and equipment are allowed to land there. The soldiers, noncommissioned officers, and officers move around the Golfito area and the Osa Peninsula escorted by local policemen, as if they were the troops' bodyguards. There are 760 engineers and other subordinate personnel in the Osa Penninsula and Golfito to build seven bridges and 3 km of road. They are trying to win over the people's sympathy by giving presents and toys to the children, as part of a psychological operation.

Dr Ana Cecilia Escalante also pointed out the region's way of life has been upset. Roads and paths have been closed off and there is constant noise from planes, helicopters, and trucks bringing in troops.

This week's edition of the Costa Rican weekly LIBERTAD carried a report called: "Golfito and the Osa: Two Towns Occupied by the Marines."

During a "The World Today" commentary last January, we pointed out that the operations in the Osa Peninsula, a few kilometers from Panama, were, and continue to be, like huge pinchers threatening Panamanian territorial integrity. Costa Rican President Oscar Arias' government immediately denied our comments, saying the Costa Rican Government guaranteed that U.S. troops would not attack Panama from Costa Rican territory. However, who can be sure of this? If we were to review the conduct of Arias' government, we would see that Arias secretly allowed a contra hospital to operate in San Jose, an action forbidden for a neutral country.

If we continued probing into this matter, we would find out that Radio Impacto, financed by the CIA, operates from San Jose. Everyday this radio station broadcasts reports from Miami with the participation of a few turncoats who use insults and slanderous remarks to strongly attack the elections, the Panamanian Government, and anything leading to the normalization of our country's situation.

We must categorically confirm the statements made by President Manuel Solis Palma, who said at the Mexico City airport on his way to Tokyo, Japan that U.S. policy toward Panama has not changed since the Bush administration came to power just over a month ago. It has been a cautious policy. The outpouring of statements and reports has been suspended. They are moving along at a slower pace. They are being more careful with what they are doing because a long list of mistakes and foolish acts lie behind them. However, the words rectification, negotiation in a climate of respect, and reciprocity with the Panamanian people have not yet appeared anywhere on the Bush administration's agenda.

While we prepare for the elections and become involved in our domestic problems, it is necessary for us not to lose sight of what takes place beyond our borders.

Weekly Review of Political Situation

PA0203010689

[Editorial Report] The following is a review of material from Panamanian and regional media related to the current political situation in Panama. This review covers the period from 21 to 27 February and includes some items that have been processed in fuller form.

Relations With the United States

Reaction to Statements by Southern Command Chief

Panamanian media devoted much attention to a speech by General Fred Woerner, commander in chief of the U.S. Southern Command, given at a meeting of Latin American Chambers of Commerce at the Panama City Marriott Hotel on 17 February.

Although no Panamanian media carried the text of Gen Woerner's speech, Panama City CRITICA on 25 February published a Panamanian Foreign Ministry communique condemning the "flagrant and disrespectful statement by Gen Fred F. Woerner..." because it "constitutes unacceptable meddling in the Republic of Panama's domestic affairs with the clear and open intention of tarnishing the Panamanian election process." Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL on 26 February claimed in an editorial that Gen Woerner's speech "violates Article II of the agreement in implementation of Article IV of the Panama Canal Treaty..." and is a "justification for not recognizing the (Panamanian) government if the official party wins...." Criticism of Woerner's speech was also carried in several newspaper articles and columns, including a "Let the People Judge" column by Ricardo Lince in the 22 February MATUTINO that commented "on what Woerner did not say." Lince said that Woerner failed to mention the fact that "fraternal countries of the continent have refused to be host countries for the U.S. Southern Command" and that this "is proof that they do not want him in their countries."

Also concerning General Woerner, Panama City Circuito RPC Television on 24 February cited a Madrid EFE report on a NEW YORK TIMES article reporting statements by Gen Woerner critical of U.S. policy. According to the RPC television report, Woerner "warned that President George Bush's government is not ready to face the Panamanian crisis because it lacks policies" and that "the regime is wisely maneuvering to manipulate the upcoming 7 May elections, and Washington is doing nothing."

Alleged U.S. Training of Insurgents

Charges by Panama Defense Forces (FDP) Lieutenant Colonel Aquilino Sieiro, cochairman of the Joint Committee, concerning "the training of mercenaries on Fort Sherman" also received prominent media attention.

A 23 February article in LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA reported that Lt Col Sieiro and representatives of the Joint Committee's five subcommissions held a meeting during which Sieiro was informed that "it is believed that Fort Sherman is being used by planes flying to Palmerola Air Force Base in Honduras to carry 'contra' insurgents trained in our country without the authorization of local authorities." Similarly, LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA on 23 February carried a DPA dispatch dateli.ed Panama City citing Sieiro as stating that there is "an unusual number of planes, 9 C-141's and 20 Cobra combat helicopters, at Howard Air Force Base." The dispatch reported Lt Col Sieiro as saying: "I think they are planning something...."

U.S. Military Housing Leases Canceled

On 23 February, MATUTINO ca.ried statements by Housing Minister Ricardo Bermudez regarding the government's decision to cancel all leases to U.S. military personnel stationed in Panama. According to Bermudez, "we were very surprised by the immediate attention given by the U.S. authorities to solving the problem of their citizens...." Luis Restrepo in his "Vox Populi" column in the 23 February LA REPUBLICA states that "those who are attacking Panama and its people claim they cannot pay their rent because of a decision by the U.S. Government...," but "the fact is, there is a law to protect Panama's interests." However, Restrepo concluded by faulting Housing Ministry officials for not foreseeing the problem.

Domestic Political Developments

Opposition March Planned

Panama City Circuito RPC Television on 22 February broadcast statements by Jose Raul Mulino, president of the Panamanian Association of Business Executives and Civic Crusade member, urging everyone to attend the "2 March opposition march for free elections and respect for human rights." Mulino added that it is "important for the Panamanian people to attend this march...to demand respect for our constitutional rights." Telemetro Television on 23 February reported that "expectations are growing" as the day of the "great civic rally" approaches. In an interview with a Telemetro Television reporter, Civic Crusade member Fernando Boyd said that "we know the mayor has already granted permission for the rally to be held.... It is the right and civic duty of all citizens to express their feelings." Boyd added that "international representatives of the Human Rights Commission" will be present at the event.

Election Activity

The election campaign and preparations continued to be a major topic in the media. Circuito RPC Radio on 20 February covered a rally by the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance (ADOC) in Panama's northern Chiriqui Province during which ADOC presidential candidate Guillermo Endara said ADOC "will wage a lofty campaign as an authentic expression of its democratic leanings." LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA on 21 February carried a brief unattributed report on the ADOC tour of Chiriqui and Veraguas Provinces. The report states that the ADOC candidates "are clearly establishing that they are struggling...to give the country a genuinely democratic government." The report added that in Santiago, Veraguas the candidates reiterated that they are bent on "giving Panama a government that respects human dignity."

The media also continued to report opposition concern over irregularities in the election process. Circuito RPC Television on 22 February carried statements by ADOC vice presidential candidate Ricardo Arias Calderon noting that several members of the opposition alliance had "pointed out some serious omissions in the Electoral Registry." On 21 February, Circuito RPC Television carried a statement by Christian Democratic Party (PDC) legislator Carlos Arellano Lennox, who said "the evidence is here on my desk that the Panama Electoral Tribunal [TEP] is already responsible for a number of irregularities." On 23 February, Circuito RPC Television broadcast statements by legislator Jorge Ruben Rosas charging that the TEP "is registering nonresidents to vote." Rosas stressed that this "is illegal."

In response to the ADOC charges, TEP Secretary Carlos Bonilla said during an interview with Circuito RPC Television on 23 February that "there are no irregularities in the voters list." He also denied that names on the list were being altered.

The issue of media freedom was also raised during the week. Circuito RPC Television on 22 February carried a statement by Edgardo Molino Mola, dean of the University of Panama Law School. Molino said that "the fact that several opposition media continue to be closed is a sign that the May elections will be weakened." Molino stressed that the opposition does not have the media to "put the COLINA candidates in their place" and added that the upcoming elections will determine whether the country will have "democracy or dictatorship."

Telemetro Television on 21 February reported on the 1st anniversary of the closing of the newspaper LA PRENSA. Paris AFP reported on 25 February that "approximately 300 people, including U.S. Embassy officials, today commemorated with a protest the 1st anniversary of the closing of seven opposition media accused of acting against the security of the state and the Panamanian economy."

On 24 February, MATUTINO carried the text of a resolution issued by the Panama Journalists Accreditation Board on guidelines for journalists who wish to be accredited as foreign correspondents in Panama. According to the guidelines, journalists must "present documents that prove the existence of the media they represent," which will be "duly authenticated by the Panamanian consul in the country where the media and the journalist seeking accreditation are based." Circuito RPC on 24 February carried a similar report, adding that these guidelines were adopted "in light of the upcoming elections...and to control alleged disinformation."

Media attention concerning the campaign of the Authentic Panamenista Party (PPA) focused on a 23 February meeting between presidential candidate Hildebrando Nicosia and FDP representative Colonel Arnulfo Castrejon. After the meeting, Circuito RPC Television broadcast statements by Nicosia and Castrejon. Nicosia thanked the FDP for allowing the PPA "to explain at length" its "political and economic proposals...." Col Castrejon reiterated that "the FDP and Gen Noriega are willing to speak with all political parties." He also praised the PPA's stance and added that "we are going to discuss and evaluate it and will soon reveal the results of this talk."

Reports on the Nicosia-Castrejon meeting were carried by all local newspapers. An editorial in Panama City LA REPUBLICA on 24 February praised the PPA-FDP dialogue, claiming that the dialogue is "further proof that the FDP is willing to speak with all political parties."

The proregime COLINA ticket received support this week from General Noriega. In a speech during a meeting with Herrera and Los Santos Province corregimiento representatives covered by Panama City Television Service on 26 February, Noriega said he had reached the conclusion that "the greatest leadership comes from the progovernment side..." whereas "the opposition candidates have just been nominated to fill up space."

The media also covered COLINA campaign trips to Chiriqui and Chitre Provinces. On 21 February MATUTINO carried a report on presidential candidate Carlos Duque's speech to the people of Chiriqui Grande, during which he exhorted that "to win, we must go to the elections united. We have a common enemy, and we must fight that oligarchy that seeks to deprive you of what you have, that oligarchy that is the messenger of the U.S. imperialist government." In Chitre, Duque and the other COLINA candidates were reported to have met with party supporters to explain the coalition's "plans for the rural areas." According to an unattributed report in MEDIODIA and a report by Televisora Nacional on 24 February, Duque said that "a return to the land is necessary to save the country's economy." Vice presidential candidate Ramon Sieiro also stressed the importance of the agricultural sector, describing it as "the country's backbone" and adding that it "will be a priority for our government." In addition to his campaign appearances, COLINA second vice presidential candidate Aquilino Boyd appeared as a guest on the "Seventh Day" program hosted by Luis Manuel Martinez and broadcast by Televisora Nacional on 27 February. During the program, Boyd, former Panamanian ambassador to the OAS, discussed Panama's relations with the United States. Boyd said that "Mr Bush is very familiar with Latin American problems, particularly Panama, so I think he will be extra careful when choosing an assistant secretary for this hemisphere." Boyd added that President Bush is "interested in solving pending issues to normalize relations between the United States and Panama." The COLINA candidate also said that "the United States has lowered its tone toward Panama...."

Representatives of the eight parties that support the progovernment slate were reported to have met to discuss various campaign activities. Circuito RPC Radio on 22 February reported that COLINA campaign manager Ernesto Perez Balladares said that "the eight parties are planning several events to cover the political campaign." Perez Balladares said that "we are looking for ways to gather funds to pay for the campaign."

Concerning the Electoral Tribunal's election preparations, TEP issued resolutions accepting the COLINA, ADOC, and PPA slates. MATUTINO on 24 February carried the texts of the three resolutions officially recognizing the slates.

On 22 February LA REPUBLICA carried an article by Cristobal Martinez on the expiration of the TEP's deadline for contesting the Electoral Registry. Martinez offered a breakdown of voters for each province. The following is a list of the provinces and number of voters:

Panama Province	591,126
Chiriqui Province	172,712
Cocle Province	80,646
Herrera Province	54,437
Los Santos Province	49,416
Bocas del Toro Province	31,170
San Blas Region	15,639
Colon Province	82,797
Veraguas Province	93,878
Darien Province	12,499

Economic Developments

Domestic Economic Situation

Panama's economic problems continued to be covered in the media. On 22 February, Circuito RPC Television carried statements by Carlos Valencia, president of the Association of Panamanian Industrialists (SIP), at the Seventh Industrial Encounter held at the Marriott Hotel in Panama City. Valencia told the participants at the encounter that "the U.S. sanctions heightened the crisis but did not unleash it; we would have experienced the

March crisis even without sanctions...." Valencia concluded by stating that "to solve the crisis it is necessary to reorganize the role of the Armed Forces...we need executive and legislative branches that abide by the will of the people and not by the will of the military leaders." The 27 February MATUTINO, however, carried an unattributed report on statements by Mario de Diego, executive secretary of the National Banking Commission, saying that "Panama's economic and banking problems are due, 100 percent, to the foreign and domestic aggression that increased in 1987."

SIP Economic Adviser Rogelio Alvarado also addressed the Seventh Industrial Encounter. In a report by Emilio Sinclair in the 23 February LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA, Alvarado is cited as stating that "the economic recovery of Panama, a nation financially wounded and in agony, is going to be painful...." Alvarado added that "soon we will not be able to speak of recovery; rather we will speak of reconstruction...." In the same vein, MEDIODIA on 23 February carried a report on statements by Alfredo Maduro, president of the Panama Chamber of Commerce, who said that it could take Panama at least "7 years" to achieve economic recovery. Maduro also said that this "recovery" will depend on a solution to the "political problem Panama has been experiencing for the past 21 months."

Problems in the real estate sector were also noted. Panama City Telemetro Television on 24 February carried statements by Victor Falcon, president of the Chamber of Commerce's Housing Commission, who said that the real estate sector is "economically getting weaker." Falcon added that Panamanian Government workers are behind in their rent payments because "many people have lost their jobs..." and "the government is behind in its payments to the real estate sector." Falcon also said that the government is "holding back rent being deducted from the workers' salaries."

Foreign Economic Relations

Both the local and foreign media reported on a commercial agreement signed between Panama and the USSR. Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA on 22 February carried an unattributed report stating that during a stopover in Mexico City on his way to attend Emperor Hirohito's funeral, Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter and Soviet Ambassador to Mexico Rostislav Sergeyev ratified "a trade agreement...that grants Panama most-favored-nation treatment." The 23 February issues of MATUTINO, CRITICA, and LA REPUBLICA all carried reports on this agreement. LA REPUBLICA also praised the agreement in its 23 February editorial.

Also concerning USSR trade, MEDIODIA on 23 February carried a report on statements by Roberto Lombana, president of the Association of Panamanian Exporters, noting that "his organization is willing to trade with the USSR." Lombana stressed that "trade relations with the USSR must be viewed in the same way trade relations with other nations are viewed."

Relations with Other Countries

Solis Palma Trip to Japan

During the week, Panamanian media gave extensive coverage to the trip by Minister in Charge of the Presidency Manuel Solis Palma and Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter to Japan, which included a stopover in Mexico, to attend Emperor Hirohito's funeral. On 21 February the Mexico City newspaper UNOMASUNO carried a lengthy report by Ruben Vasquez on an interview with Solis Palma. During the interview, Solis Palma said that Panama's relations with Mexico are "broad and cordial." LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA also carried a report on the interview on 21 February. LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA on 22 February also carried an unattributed report stating that during his "20-hour private visit" to Mexico, Solis Palma "held talks with his Mexican colleague, Carlos Salinas de Gortari."

In covering Solis Palma's activities in Japan, Panama City newspapers carried photographs of Solis Palma with Emperor Akihito and Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita. A 23 February Madrid EFE dispatch datelined Tokyo reported that Solis Palma "thanked" Prime Minister Takeshita "for Japanese participation in the tripartite commission...." Circuito RPC Television on 27 February reported on Solis Palma's meeting with Emperor Akihito to express "the Panamanian Government's and people's" condolences.

National Assembly President in Nicaragua

The visit to Nicaragua by Legislative Assembly President Celso Carrizo was also given wide coverage. CRITICA on 24 February carried an article by Carlos J. Nunez reporting on the visit and Carrizo's speech before the Nicaraguan National Assembly. Nunez recalled that this is the "first time in the Nicaraguan National Assembly's history that a foreigner had been invited to speak." Carrizo told the Nicaraguan assemblymen that "our nations are sisters in adversity. You have been invaded, blocked, and sabotaged by the United States. We are the victims of a ferocious economic aggression...." Managua BARRICADA on 21 February also reported on Carrizo's visit. BARRICADA added that during his speech before the Assembly, Carrizo said that if the Bush administration wants good relations with Latin America, "he must change his policies toward the continent." Carrizo added that Panama "is pleased with the Central American peace talks."

OAS Human Rights Commission Visit

Panama City Telemetro Television on 27 February reported the arrival in Panama of an OAS Inter-American Human Rights Commission delegation. According to the report, the delegation had already met with "Government and Justice Minister Rodolfo Chiari, with

whom it discussed the topic of the closed media," with officials of the Attorney General's Office, and members of the Panamanian Human Rights Commission.

Also on 27 February, Panama City newspapers reported COLINA presidential candidate Carlos Duque's "patriotic message" to his "fellow citizens." MATUTINO carried the text of the message, which states that the "Chamber of Commerce, the political parties, and the churches" must ask the visiting commission to "urge the U.S. Government to lift...the unjust economic sanctions imposed on Panama." In addition, Televisora Nacional on 22 February reported that COLINA second vice presidential candidate Aquilino Boyd said that the progovernment slate will meet with the members of the commission to denounce U.S. violations of the treaties.

CRITICA on 27 February ran an editorial on the "eternal enemies of the Panamanian people" who are planning to use the commission's visit to "carry out negative propaganda against President Manuel Solis Palma's government and the Torrijist process."

Argentina

Alfonsin Meets With Italian Defense Officials

PY0103030589 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1513 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 28 Feb, (TELAM)—President Raul Alfonsin held a meeting at government house today with General Luiggi Stefani, the secretary general of the Italian Defense Department and director of the National Armament Department. During the meeting they discussed bilateral cooperation in the defense sector.

The meeting was also attended by Ludovico Incisa di Camerana, the Italian ambassador to Argentina; Colonel Luciano D'Alesandro, the Italian Embassy military attache; and Daniel Castro, Argentine secretary of production for defense.

Following the meeting, Stefani told the press that he and Alfonsin "discussed new ways of bilateral cooperation in the defense industry sector."

Stefani stated that, as has been done with other countries, bilateral treaties are being drafted "to strengthen this cooperation." He added that "it is feasible for Argentina and Italy to jointly manufacture military equipment by using Argentine- and Italian-made parts."

Stefani said this bilateral cooperation goes beyond the purchase and sale of weapons, because it also encompasses cooperation in the areas of technology and production systems.

Ambassador Incisa di Camerana said the objective of General Stefani's visit is to identify areas of common interest. He added that "this cooperation is based on the same democratic principles" upheld by Argentina and Italy.

Regarding negotiations between the Argentine Armed Forces and Italian private defense companies for the manufacture of war materiel in the Cordoba-based military industry, Incisa di Camerana said that in principle this cooperation will affect the industrial sector, but that it also involves several other sectors.

Asked if Italy will continue to support Argentina no matter who wins the presidential elections on 14 May, Incisa di Camerana said: "Our commitment is to Argentine democracy."

Bilateral Treaties Viewed

PY0303003489 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1953 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Cordoba, 2 Mar (NA)—General Luigi Stefani, secretary of the Italian Defense Department, said here today that his country will not accept British pressure to prevent the implementation of the bilateral treaties signed with Argentina, even if the bilateral exchange includes weapons.

Gen Stefani and Italian Ambassador Ludovico Di Cammerana this morning visited the Cordoba Materiel Department of the Air Force where the FAMA company, which is a joint Argentine-Italian project, will begin operations next April.

Stefani visited the installations with FAMA president General Jorge Corradetti, who briefed him on the construction of the Pucara IA-58 and IA-63 airplanes.

Stefani had lunch with Argentine officials and then spoke briefly to the press. He said that the "bilateral agreements with Argentina are fully being implemented."

Stefani announced that he will return to this province later this year to attend the inauguration ceremony of the Argentine-Italian Mixed Committee that will manufacture the airplanes and helicopters.

Asked about the pressure Great Britain may exert against Italy to prevent the implementation of the bilateral agreements, Stefani emphasized that "Italy and Great Britain, through their defense ministers, have studied the agreements and my country will exercize its autonomy in this field."

Sefani explained that the bilateral agreements "are not basically aimed at selling weapons, or any particular product, but there is the possibility of selling some weapons."

Caputo Leaves for Uruguay To Discuss Falklands

PY0203181989 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Dante Caputo departed this noon aboard an Air Force helicopter for the Anchorena cattle ranch near the Uruguayan city of Colonia, where he will meet with his Uruguayan counterpart, Luis Barrios Tassano. Later, Caputo will meet with President Julio Maria Sanguinetti in Montevideo.

Before his departure, Foreign Minister Caputo said that an overall review of bilateral relations would be made, and that later he would be received by President Sanguinetti to summarize the discussions with the Uruguayan foreign minister.

Caputo intends to review the status of the Malvinas conflict in light of the repeated so-called emergency landings by British Air Force planes in Uruguay and the arrival of the British ship "Indiana I" at the Montevideo port from the Malvinas. [passage omitted]

Falklands Joint Communique Signed

PY0203220389 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2145 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Mar (TELAM)—The Foreign Ministers of Argentina and Uruguay, Dante Caputo and Luis Barrios Tassano, have signed a joint communique stressing "the permanent solidarity of the Uruguayan Government and people with the Argentine position regarding the Malvinas Islands."

The text of the communique released here by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship, datelined in San Juan de Anchorena, Uruguay, states the following:

"The foreign ministers of Argentina and Uruguay have met in San Juan de Anchorena to analyze the development of their bilateral relations.

"After verifying the excellent state of relations, the two ministers agreed to expedite the integration process between the two countries that was initiated by the Colonia Agreement, and signed by Presidents Sanguinetti and Alfonsin in May 1985.

The foreign ministers have decided to hold four work meetings, alternately, in the two countries over the next 34 days. The result of the meetings will be submitted to their respective presidents.

"During the meeting they also studied ways of future cooperation within the framework of the process of integration that the two countries maintain with the Federative Republic of Brazil.

"The Argentine foreign minister expressed his government's appreciation over the permanent solidarity of the Uruguayan Government and people with the Argentine position on the Malvinas Islands issue.

"The Uruguayan foreign minister also expressed his government's permanent willingness to continue with that support in all fields."

Economy Ministry on World Bank Loan Suspension

PY0303011489 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0001 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Mar (TELAM)—The Economy Ministry at 2145 released a communique regarding the suspension of a disbursement of $350 million by the World Bank. The communique says:

"Today the World Bank Executive Board decided to suspend the disbursement of $350 million, which corresponds to the second allotment of the second commercial policy credit, and to the first allotment of a credit to the financial sector.

"This decision was made because all the conditions established in the credits for granting the disbursements were not met. The bank executive board reported that the suspension will be maintained until all the conditions are met and the macroeconomic situation improves.

"The Economy Ministry releases this information in order to make it clear that the temporary suspension of disbursements refers strictly to these two credits and does not affect other credits.

"The disbursements of the credits for Yacyreta, Segba, social and agricultural sectors, technical assistance, and other small credits are not affected by this measure."

Alfonsin Conveys Solidarity to Venezuela

PY0203231189 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1945 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Mar (NA)—Foreign Minister Dante Caputo today said that President Raul Alfonsin has conveyed his "solidarity" to Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez and said that he is "willing to cooperate as much as possible" with the government of that country that is currently disturbed by violence which has resulted in 119 deaths.

Caputo added that the Venezuelan president conveyed to President Alfonsin his "great concern over the events but he emphasized that the situation is being resolved."

In an interview with Radio America Caputo commented on the violent demonstrations in Venezuela in protest over the new economic measures.

Caputo said that the violence that continued yesterday for the third consecutive day "took everybody by surprise." He also indicated that yesterday afternoon President Perez gave Alfonsin "more optimistic news than the news from previous days."

Caputo concluded by saying that "it is important to note how peace can be jeopardized by the implementation of some economic programs that are very demanding and very difficult to carry out."

Mendoza Purchases Soviet-Made Trolleys

PY0103191389 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] In Mendoza, the provincial public works and services minister, (Carlos Aviagle) has confirmed that Mendoza has purchased 13 brand-new Soviet-made trolleys, which will be paid for with fruit and farm products.

Fishing Agreement With Bulgaria Suspended

PY0203221289 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2045 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 Mar (DYN)—Radical Party Senator Hipolito Solari Irigoyen today announced that the Argentine Government has decided to terminate the fishing agreement with Bulgaria.

Senator Solari, who for some time was President Alfonsin's "roving ambassador," said: "the decision is based on the difficulties found in implementing the agreement in view of the failure by this European country to comply with the terms of the agreement."

The Chubut senator added that last week in Buenos Aires he discussed the issue with Bulgarian Ambassador Purvan Chernev.

Solari said that the Argentine Government has reported the termination of the agreement to Bulgaria. He concluded by saying that he believes the agreement could not be implemented "in view of the Bulgarian delay in buying semi-manufactured products from Argentina."

Industry, Business Group Quit Price Committee

PY0103190089 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 1 Mar 89 p 5

[Text] (NA)—The Argentine Industrial Union (UIA) and the Argentine Chamber of Commerce [CCA] yesterday withdrew their representatives from the price-monitoring committee, thus breaking up the alliance set up with the government for the implementation of the Primavera plan last August.

The decision was unanimously approved by the organization's directive board.

During a press conference, UIA President Eduardo de la Fuente said that if the government tried to impose price controls even though increases are justified by higher costs, then "we will have repressed inflation."

In turn, the CCA, issued a press statement signed by its president, Carlos de la Vega, expressing its disagreement with price policies adopted last week.

The business leader charged that the implementation of price controls and the "perverse" decision to include small and medium sized companies, which are the hardest hit by recession, under the new scheme had led the UIA to shed responsibility in this matter.

"The Primavera plan died a long time ago," said De la Fuente, who added that they had not walked out on the agreement with the government before because they had made a commitment before President Raul Alfonsin.

"When we considered it was time to leave, we requested an audience and told him personally."

Gassino Chairs Army Leadership Meeting

PY0203185589 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] For the first time since he took over as Army chief of staff, General Francisco Gassino chaired a plenary meeting of the Army high command today at 0800.

At least 300 generals, colonels, and chief of Army units and organizations from the interior of the country attended the meeting.

The meeting began with a speech by Gassino on the Army's guidelines for 1989. He asked the Army high command to continue working to achieve cohesion in the Army, healing wounds and overcoming false divisions.

Gassino thus hinted at the Army's willingness to reconcile the disciplinary actions arising from the different uprisings, reviewing each case individually.

During the meeting, the La Tablada incident and the Army's difficult economic situation were thoroughly reviewed.

Gassino also explained the activities conducted by the national authorities to reverse this difficult economic situation and the analysis being made concerning the salary policy.

It is worth recalling that the promotion board, headed by Army Deputy Chief of Staff General Valentin Venier and made up of seven senior generals, will meet this afternoon.

The promotion board will discuss the status of the Army personnel who participated in acts of indiscipline in various instances such as the Easter rebellion and the Monte Caseros and Villa Martelli uprisings.

It is thought that this meeting of the promotion board will be a key point in Gassino's strategy to put an end to the contention existing within the Army.

Foreign Ministry Sources Deny Border Violation

PY0103165189 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Responding to reports, datelined Chile, that last Thursday a military patrol entered Chilean territory through a border pass at Pehuenche, 350 km south of Santiago, Argentine Foreign Ministry sources have denied that the border had been violated and made it clear that, in any case, national gendarmerie personnel—and not the military—would have been involved.

Molotov Cocktail Explodes at La Pampa Court
PY0103180689 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Excerpt] In La Pampa, the explosion of a Molotov cocktail inside the Santa Rosa superior court building early this morning damaged the furniture and some dossiers.

The bombing occurred today shortly after 0200, after which police began to guard the building, which is downtown, a few meters from La Pampa's legislative and executive offices. [passage omitted]

Supreme Court Rejects Appeal by Two Generals
PY0103182189 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] The Supreme Court has ruled that the due obedience law is not applicable to retired generals Santiago Omar Riveros and Ramon Genaro Diaz Bessone for their involvement in human rights violations during the struggle against subversion and terrorism.

During the military regime, Riveros acted as Military Institutes director and Genaro Diaz Bessone as Defense Zone No 2 commander.

The Supreme Court has upheld the decisions handed down by the San Martin and Rosario federal courts, rejecting petitions filed by the attorneys of these two former military commanders.

UCR Deputy Bello Dies of Heart Attack
PY0103165289 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Summary] Deputy Carlos Bello (UCR—Buenos Aires) died of a heart attack this morning. He will be replaced by UCR leader Aquiles Fortunio.

New Industry Secretaries Appointed
PY0303022989 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 2 Mar 89 p 18

[Excerpt] Yesterday, Murat Eurnekian, the industry and trade secretary, appointed Rubem Emilio Zeida as secretary of small- and medium-sized industries and Alejandro Rafael Sampayo as industry secretary. [passage omitted]

Bolivia

Political Parties Register Candidates
PY0103160889 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 25 Feb 89 p 1, 5

[Excerpt] Twelve political parties have made their participation in the upcoming general elections official. These parties have registered the names of their candidates for president, vice president, senators, and deputies at the National Electoral Board.

The registration of candidates ended last night in accordance with the Electoral Law. Representatives of all political parties were present at the Board, as required by the law.

The various party representatives spent yesterday fulfilling Electoral Law requirements and presenting documents to participate in the election. The list of parties is as follows:

ADN, Conscience of the Fatherland Party (CONDEPA), Bolivian Socialist Falange (FSB), United Katarist Liberation Front (FAULKA) [Frente Unico de Liberacion Katarista], United Left (IU), Democratic Federalist Movement (MFD), National Leftist Movement (MIN), Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR), Tupac Katari Revolutionary Liberation Movement (MRTKL), and Socialist Party One (PS-1) registered their party names and acronyms to participate in the upcoming election. [Only 10 parties listed, as published]

The official tickets of the various parties are as follows:

ADN: president, Hugo Banzer Suarez; vice president, Luis Ossio Sanjines.

CONDEPA: president Carlos Palenque Aviles; vice president, Jorge Escobari Cusicanqui.

FSB: president, Max Fernandez; vice president, Waldo Cerruto Calderon de la Barca.

FULKA: president, Jenaro Flores Santos; vice president, Hermogenes Basualdo Garcia.

MFD: This movement does not have candidates for president or vice president.

MIN: president, Luis Sandoval Moron; vice president, Oscar Garcia Suarez.

MIR: president, Jaime Paz Zamora; vice president, Jose Gustavo Fernandez.

MNR: president, Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada; vice president Walter Guevara Arze. [This party is not included in the previous list]

MRTKL: president, Victor Hugo Cardenas; vice president, Norberto Perez.

PS-1: president, Roger Cortez; vice president, Jerjes Justiniano.

[On page 9. section 2, of this same edition of EL DIARIO, the "United Left Front" candidates are listed as "president, Antonio Aranibar; vice president, Walter Delgadillo Trceros]

National Electoral Board President Mauro Cuellar has said that political parties will be able to revise their tickets until 20 March. After that date the Board will reject all modifications to the tickets. [passage omitted]

Bedregal Warns of Drug Money in Campaign

PY0103162889 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal has said that the government fears the involvement of drug money and people linked to drug trafficking in the upcoming election.

Bedregal said that drug money has already attacked the democratic system in other countries. He pointed out that drug money was used to support candidacies in Colombia's national election.

Bedregal said the government is afraid the Colombian experience could be repeated in Bolivia.

Regarding Max Fernandez [Bolivian Socialist Falange presidential candidate], who joined another party when the Electoral Board rejected the registration of his party, the National Civic Union, Bedregal said he refused to comment on someone who now purports to [words indistinct] special interest group.

Bedregal admitted, however, that he did not investigate Fernandez, but he recalled President Paz Estenssoro's words regarding the power of drug traffickers.

Bedregal said that drug traffickers can use the political system to further their own ends, and he called on the people to listen carefully to what the various parties participating in the election have to offer.

Government, Coca Growers To Sign Agreement

PY0103181189 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] At 1100 GMT today the government and coca growers will sign an agreement by which coca plantations will be reduced and an alternative development program implemented.

Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal has said that the government and coca growers have overcome their differences and have decided to sign a document to that effect.

Bedregal said that the executive branch now has $24 million—a sum that could rise to $60 million—to implement the government programs to reduce coca plantations. Bedregal added that international organizations and other Latin American governments have begun to show interest in the Bolivian alternative development programs.

The foreign minister said these resources will be used to help coca producing areas eradicate some 5,000 hectares [as heard] during the present session. Bedregal added that he is optimistic about government relations with peasants from now on, and he said that the new programs to fight drug trafficking will be implemented with their help.

Bedregal concluded by saying that the signing of the agreement is an indication of our relations with them at this time.

91 Hectares of Coca Plantations Eliminated

PY0103161289 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 21 Feb 89 p 6

[All figures published]

[Excerpts] The Ministry of Agriculture, Campesino Affairs, and Livestock Affairs has reported that 91.7 hectares of coca plantations were eliminated from four Bolivian regions in January.

Alternative Development Under Secretary Anibal Aguilar Gomez has said that the results of the first month of work do not represent "significant progress."

He stressed, however, that Bolivia will eliminate 5,000 hectares of coca plantations before the end of 1989, thereby meeting the goal set in the Law of Special Regulations for Coca and Controlled Substances. [passage omitted]

According to reports from specialized agencies, 30.7 hectares were destroyed in Carrasco, 18.2 in Chapare, 15.5 in Tiraque, 10.3 in Sud Yungas, and 16.8 in Ichilo, Santa Cruz.

225 coca growers received 412,353 Bolivian pesos as compensation for eliminating the 91.7 hectares of coca.

The reports add that 248 square meters of coca nurseries were eliminated. [passage omitted]

Newspaper Director Resigns; New One Named

PY0103142689 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 19 Feb 89 p 1

[Summary] Armando Mariaca, the director of PRESENCIA, has resigned. The executive board of the newspaper has designated Ana Maria de Campero as his replacement.

Chile

Pinochet Warns of Danger in Government Change

PY0203154989 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Relay by Graciela Contreras from Puerto Montt]

[Excerpts] President Augusto Pinochet warned here of the danger of handing over the country and its destiny to those who only want to preserve their own interests and who are obviously responsible for the situation in Chile between 1964 and 1973. [passage omitted]

[Begin Pinochet recording] We cannot hand over the country and its destiny to those who only want to preserve their own interests and who are obviously

responsible for the stagnation and degradation of our fatherland between 1964 and 1973. All of us should understand that we made rapid progress toward development thanks to clear, consistent, and fair policies. We should also understand, however, that we can regress even faster if those who assume the higher posts within the government disagree with or want to destroy the essential elements of this political and socioeconomic work, which has been supported and promoted by a vast majority of Chileans. [end recording]

Addressing representatives of all sectors of the region at the Blue Hall of the Intendancy Building, the president said it is his duty to warn about this danger.

[Begin Pinochet recording] Ladies and gentlemen: It is my duty to warn you that the dangers to which I refer are very near. Several political sectors have announced their support for radical changes in Chile, ranging from restrictions on economic freedom to major amendments to the Constitution of 1980. If such changes occur, Chile will waste its best opportunity to overcome underdevelopment and to begin the 21st century as a nation in full progress. My friends, this warning is unfortunately not groundless. It is based on facts that all of us observe. Unfortunately, few people want to understand and analyze these facts, as if by ignoring the facts they could avoid the evil consequences. [passage omitted] [end recording]

The president went on to say that there are persons and groups whose main driving force is hatred, which they sow among brothers. He stressed that power should not be in the hands of political leaders but in the hands of the people, who should sovereignly make their choice at the ballot boxes. [passage omitted]

Ecuador

Cuban Diplomat 'Missing' Since 8 January

PA0203163289 Quito EL COMERCIO in Spanish 22 Feb 89 p A-3

[Text] Cuban diplomat Enrique Garcia Diaz disappeared a month and a half ago without any information regarding his whereabouts. According to reports published in LA HORA daily newspaper, the diplomat's disappearance has given rise to many speculations, ranging from his defection to his being kidnapped by the CIA.

In statements made yesterday, the Cuban diplomat's father, who until recently had served as a correspondent for PRENSA LATINA, said his son had disappeared and that his whereabouts were being investigated. He pointed out his son's disappearance was not revealed sooner in order not to hinder the investigations.

Enrique Garcia, the missing diplomat, served as a member of the commercial delegation since his arrival in Ecuador 2 years ago. The young attache left his home on 8 January, at approximately 0800, apparently on his way to work at the Cuban Embassy.

Approximately 1 and ½ hours later, he contacted the embassy by telephone to say he would be arriving at 1145, but he never got there.

Faced with the unexpected disappearance of a member of their staff, Cuban Embassy officials and Garcia's relatives contacted the authorities to begin a joint investigation of the case, which so far has proven fruitless.

On 10 January, embassy staff located the missing diplomat's car at the intersection of Amazonas Avenue and Robles Street.

It was first thought Garcia Diaz might have been the victim of a gang of robbers, but all investigations dismiss that possibility.

One rumor has it Garcia had established close contacts with members of the U.S. Embassy, with whom he planned his defection and his subsequent clandestine departure from Ecuador to seek asylum in Washington or Miami.

In various circles, it has been stated categorically the Cuban diplomat was virtually kidnapped by CIA agents, who were trying to obtain detailed information on secret matters concerning relations between Cuba and Ecuador, about which the missing diplomat was well informed.

Another rumor indicates Garcia managed to leave Ecuador by using a false passport and was accompanied by a woman with whom he maintained close relations.

According to a dispatch by REUTERS press agency, Garcia Diaz, aged 29, is married and works for the Cuban Industries Ministry. Garcia also represents several Cuban state-owned companies in Ecuador.

Minister Says Dialogue With AVC Continuing

PA0203231289 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Cesar Verduga Velez, minister of labor and human resources, has said the dialogue between the government and the Alfaro Lives, Damnit [AVC] subversive group does not imply that a document must be signed. He said the AVC's decision to lay down arms and rejoin Ecuador's political and democratic life is enough. The minister added that his role as mediator between the subversive group and the government has virtually ended:

[Begin recording] [Verduga] I have opposed all kinds of terrorism, be it terrorism involving people, groups, or the state. Based on that premise, I believe the dialogue the government has started with insurgent groups that are willing to rejoin civilian life is appropriate and correct, regardless of what the ideological goal of these groups might be. I believe there should be no armed groups in the country.

[Reporter] It has been said that signing an accord is a major obstacle. Commander Joaquin, who even revealed his name, said this is an obstacle; he said that an accord should be signed and that there was prior agreement on this.

[Verduga] As far as I know, there was never any agreement to sign an accord. I have nothing to add to what the government minister has said on various occasions in this regard.

[Reporter] But will a document be signed?

[Verduga] The government has already clearly said no. [end recording]

Government and Justice Minister Andres Vallejo has pointed out that the government's position toward the AVC has been very clearly stated.

[Begin Vallejo recording] The government's goal is to allow people or groups involved in illegal activities to rejoin civilian life. This position still stands. Also standing is the resolve to punish those who continue to be involved in illegal activities with the full force of the law.

I just read an AVC communique in the press repudiating—as a group—these actions and stating that the group is not involved in such actions. They add that dissidents of the group are.

I repeat: Those involved in such actions will be punished with the full force of the law. We will not tolerate them. Our continuing willingness to hold talks, which I reaffirm today, is aimed at people who decide to rejoin civilian life. [end recording]

Finally, Jose Gonzalo Ortiz Crespo, national public information secretary, has said the government has not and will not sponsor paramilitary groups.

[Begin Ortiz recording] The government minister, who is in charge of this, has decided not to disband the Reaction and Rescue Team. This is an organization devoted to the struggle against crime and drug trafficking. It is not a paramilitary group. It is a legal branch of Ecuador's National Police. The government has not and will not sponsor paramilitary groups.

Whenever charges were confirmed about the existence of paramilitary groups—we could call them private groups—sponsored by special interest groups in certain areas, such as landowners who are involved in spreading terror, the government certainly took forceful action against them. The government will continue to do so. [end recording]

Government Adopts Monetary Stabilization Plan

PA2402044489 Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish 12 Feb 89 p 2

[Summary] During a meeting with members of the Ecuadoran - German Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Monetary Board President Abelardo Pachano said that in view of the deep economic crisis the country is experiencing, the government has adopted a monetary stabilization plan to stimulate the economy. Pachano said the country is currently undergoing a serious economic slump. Pachano added the government plan for this year seeks to increase monetary reserves to approximately $190 million, increase the gross national product by 1.6 percent (excluding the oil sector), and achieve a more stable balance of payments.

Paraguay

Argana Sees Possible Solution in Montanaro Case

PY0203030089 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 1 Mar 89 p 10

[Text] This morning Foreign Minister Luis Maria Argana said: "We fulfilled our mission successfully. We attended the funeral of Japanese Emperor Hirohito, which was possibly the outstanding funeral ceremony of the century. It was also an occasion to talk with dignitaries from several countries of the world." Argana returned from Tokyo on 28 February.

Argana said: "All these dignitaries expressed their great solidarity, great sympathy, and great support for General Andres Rodriguez' administration, for this historic democratic opening that is under way in Paraguay."

Argana added: "I held a protocol meeting with U.S. President George Bush. No details were discussed, but he expressed great sympathy and hope in the future of Paraguay. We also met with Argentine Vice President Victor Martinez, Brazilian President Jose Sarney, the presidents of Costa Rica and Honduras, and several foreign ministers. We also met some princes—such as Prince Phillip—and other personalities."

He added that he held talks with Honduran President Vinicio Cerezo and with the Honduran foreign minister on the case of former Interior Minister Sabino A. Montanaro, who has sought asylum at the residence of the Honduran charge d'affaires in Asuncion. "We have almost succeeded in finding a formula that I think will help pave the way for a solution. I cannot give any further information before informing the president of the Republic. These negotiations will solve the problem of asylum. We will probably have information this week," Argana concluded.

CORPOSANA President, Department Delegates Named

PY0203205589 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 2 Mar 89 p 13

[Summary] On 2 March, the government appointed Guillermo Sanchez Guffanti as both president and general manager of the Water and Sanitation Corporation (CORPOSANA). Guffanti replaces Carlos Alberto Yaryes and Alberto Ramirez Patino respectively. The government also designated Julio Cesar Fanego as Guaira Department Government Delegate, replacing Benito Caceres Ferreira; Juan Bautista Ibanez as Caaguazu Department Government Delegate replacing Rene Molas; Marcelo J. Abente as Itapua Department Government Delegate, replacing Juan Carlos Gomez Vigo; Gregorio Morales as Paraguari Department Government Delegate, replacing Cesar Benitez Bogado; and Colonel Sergio Valinotti, retired, as Alto Paraguay Department Government Delegate, replacing Juan Rivas Fleitas.

Peru

Violent Demonstrations Follow Price Adjustment

PY0303022089 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0125 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] Lima, 2 Mar (EFE)—Peruvian police today detained at least 30 public employees and confiscated subversive propaganda in a day of violent riots and street demonstrations staged by workers on strike to protest low salaries and the constant increase of the cost of living.

Despite the state of emergency prevailing in Lima, about 1,000 public employees who have been on strike since January marched down the main streets of the city demanding a solution to their economic problems.

The strikers were protesting an average 50-percent increase in food, transportation, and fuel prices as a result of the fourth price adjustment by the government since last September, in keeping with its economic policy of gradual adjustments.

According to witnesses, at the same time the workers staged their marches, several bombs exploded in Lima. The bonbs were hidden inside car tires thrown inside several stores a few hundred meters from government house.

For the first time in a year, riot police did not use rubber bullets to disperse the protesters, using water-jets, tear gas, and ruber truncheons instead.

Police raided an office of a public employees' labor union and said they found propaganda of a rebel group. The labor union denied this.

Upon assuming his post today, new Interior Minister Armando Villanueva forbade the police to use rubber bullets, which in the last few months have blinded a dozen worker and students and injured the sight of six others.

The Peruvian people's purchasing power has been reduced by 70 percent in the past 5 months, while inflation ran at 1,700 percent and unemployment reached 12 percent among the working population.

The National Statistics Institute (INE) has reported that inflation increased by 42.5 percent in February, which means a 107-percent increase in the first 2 months of the year.

President on Reason for Cabinet Reshuffle

PY0203180389 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Speech by President Alan Garcia during installation of four new ministers at Government House on 1 March—recorded]

[Text] [Lengthy applause] Before swearing in the new ministers, I must inform the people the reason for this cabinet reshuffle and the goals of this administrative reorganization. These changes are an answer to the citizens' concern over domestic security and order. These changes are made to give priority to defending democracy against subversion, and to organize the government and the society so as to eradicate violence.

We are aware that subversion and violence are serious problems that cannot be overcome in a short term, but it is our duty to reorient political activities and reorganize the government to overcome them. I have therefore appointed a man long concerned with social issues to head the Interior Ministry. I thank him for this decisive proof of his unselfish dedication to the needs of the country. I ask all Peruvians to help him perform his task.

Because fighting subversion and violence is very important, all citizens must contribute ideas, fulfill tasks, and, above all, understand that, even if terrorism tries to destroy our country, Peru will outlive violence. May no one feel defeated in Peru. We must boldly continue this long battle, which we will win.

The fight against violence is our greatest problem. It has cost Peru thousands of lives, including those of the most humble people, of elected officials, and of soldiers and policemen.

In the last 8 years, this tide of criminal violence has created a climate of uncertainty that slowed down the rate of investment, hindered our development, and caused great losses to the state. Yesterday, when visiting the Mantaro River Valley, I saw a destroyed milk factory, a damaged agrarian cooperative water system, destroyed machines that had been working on the left bank of a river, and a number of small bridges blown out. These and thousands of other similar scenes cause scarcity, unemployment, backwardness, and uncertainty over the future.

Subversion poses a still greater threat to our future because of its shameless alliance with drug traffickers. This alliance turns the subversives into the armed

branch of drug trafficking. Subversives are currently fighting among themselves to control the coca-producing areas and thereby obtain economic support. Their eradication will be very dificult if they achieve their purpose.

We also have other serious social and economic problems in Peru. Our democratic decision is to seek solutions in freedom, elect our authorities in freedom, and coexist in peace.

Our democracy should not appear as weak or defenseless. It has the legitimate support of the people and should be severe and strict.

This cabinet will have a most important goal to fulfill: It will give political support to the activity of the Armed Forces and national police. The struggle of our soldiers is our struggle, and I demand that all our citizens support it. Those who doubt, mistrust, or deride the Armed Forces are working for the subversives to weaken the Armed Forces' faith and convictions.

The government will have the important task of providing the resources required to fight subversion. All citizens must understand that we have to give priority to the country's defense against death and destruction.

The second priority of the cabinet is in the social field. This government will try to call forth and unite the efforts of all social sectors to oppose and eradicate subversion. No one can sit back and watch in this decisive hour. We may have many differences, but today we must unite to defend life and democracy.

We will continue to try to improve our democratic system, but peace has to be won now. All ministries, municipalities, and popular organizations must understand that if we do not face subversion now, we will destroy the future of our children.

This message is especially directed to all political parties. Even though we have our differences on other issues, we must agree on this idea and the policy for action.

Congress must approve more effective legislation to support the fight against subversion. Politicians must understand that excessive criticism and discouragement plays into the hands of subversion and constitutes indirect support for it.

The social organizations and political parties can also implement concrete measures. We all know that subversives hide behind the people. The situation in this country is not similar to that in countries where the subversives form regular armies and move in defined areas. Here they hide behind the people and move in anonymity. Only the people, and their organizations and parties, can help fight subversion. Each group has the responsibility to contribute to our efforts against violence.

It would be silly, suicidal, and unpatriotic to wait until the government fails. This government will try to coordinate its efforts to help us.

There is a third field of struggle: the political arena. We have to prove that democracy is a better ethical and ideological choice because it answers to the demands of the largest sectors of the population and strives for change.

I still believe that the best weapon against subversion is the total transformation of our country, our economic independence, our regional development, and a better distribution of our wealth. The moral ground of which we fight violence is our will to change.

Democracy is freedom, peace, justice, and life. The terrorist subversion, on the other hand, stands for dictatorship, inequality, and death.

Finally, each one of us must show psychological determination and courage. We must display the personal psychological conviction to fight fear, because fear is what subversion seeks. We should be able to resist threats and the payment of ransom. Here the communication media have a very great responsibility.

He who kills a policeman is a murderer, but he can become a terrorist through the scandal and the media. Then his acts will instill fear among the population. Subversives use the media to reach society. They use us, and the constitutional norms that provide protection in normal times, to cover their crimes.

If we want to help fight subversion, we should not let them use us; we should not let them force us to live in fear. Many Peruvians do not accept defeat or fear.

One of these people is now heading the government and the Interior Ministry. He is over 70 years old. He has been in jail for many years. He is an old APRA member, a disciple of Haya de la Torre. He could have chosen to serve in better places, but he chose this dangerous and difficult post instead.

I expect all Peruvians to support him in his task. [applause] I ask all other cabinet members to act decisively, and I plead with all Peruvians to support them. Do not look at them as APRA members, look at them as members of a cabinet ready to serve all Peruvians.

Minister on 'Mobilization Against Subversion'

PY0203203389 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Interior Minister Armando Villanueva del Campo has said that the government will not establish a dialogue with subversives or drug traffickers. He said that the government will intensify the struggle against these scourges which do so much harm to the country. Villanueva del Campo also spoke about other subjects.

[Begin recording] [Villanueva] This is just an introductory meeting and next time I will explain more about the struggle against subversion. We intend to promote a national mobilization against subversion. That is all I want to tell you for the time being. [passage omitted]

People collaborated with the terrorists when they observed the strike that was imposed at gunpoint [as heard]. They are harming their children and [word indistinct]

[Unidentified reporter] Is there a possibility that the government will establish a dialogue with other groups?

[Villanueva] Democracy is dialogue. I have always maintained this. A dialogue implies, however, that two people talk, according to its Latin definition. If only one wants to talk and the other answers with a bullet or a bomb, it means that there is no possibility of a dialogue. [passage omitted]

Therefore, I repeat, democracy allows dialogue but with those who wish to talk. We cannot talk with terrorists. No talks with terrorists.

[Reporter] And the drug traffickers?

[Villanueva] Drug traffickers are another kind of terrorist, and we cannot talk to them either. No dialogue is possible either with subversives or with terrorist drug traffickers, because crime does not talk. Crime destroys. It is impossible to talk to them.

We have invited all those who believe in democracy to talk, but if terrorists use bombs, bullets, and knives, we cannot talk with them. [end recording]

Uruguay

President Evaluates Term in Address To Nation

PY0203183389 Madrid EFE in Spanish
0249 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Montevideo, 1 Mar (EFE)—Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti today expressed his satisfaction that he has effected "peaceful changes" in the quest for the restoration of democracy in his country, and that this was "his only promise" when he assumed power 4 years ago.

He also warned about the recent guerrilla activities in Argentina and about those people in Uruguay "who have not expressed a clear position on the subject."

The president said that these incidents could drive the country "away from the path of peace," of the law, of effort and of work, which are the only paths that will guarantee our freedom."

In a speech broadcast over national radio and television, the president evaluated his term, adding that on 1 March 1985 "we do not promise miracles" only "work to rebuild democracy in peace."

It may be said that we have had good or bad results, but no one can say that we did not fulfill our promise," the president said.

Sanguinetti said that there are problems in the country, and expressed his concern over "the rancorous and angry" attitude of some of his fellow countrymen, which "will lead to frustration."

"I must honestly say that I would not be at peace if I did not mention my concern" over the reappearance in Argentina of "subversive, bloody, and antidemocratic violence," the president said alluding to the terrorist attack against the La Tablada unit in Argentina in January.

"I am concerned because we are neighbors and also because some people here have not reacted as clearly as they should, in that they have not clearly and categorically rejected those methods," he added.

In his message, the president recalled that next year he will hand over power, adding that in 1989 the people will have two opportunities to express their will: the referendum on 16 April and the elections in November.

In April, Uruguayans will be summoned to approve or reject the "Law of Expiration" over the trials of militarymen who violated human rights.

The law, which has extended to the military the amnesty that was decreed for the release of the former Tupamaro guerrillas, has been rejected by the "Broad Front" leftist coalition, by social organizations, and by minority sectors of the traditional ruling Colorado Party and the important opposition Blanco Party.

Sanguinetti said that the plebiscite will enable "the people to decide whether we will continue along this path of peaceful solutions that the country has followed over the past 4 years, or whether we will return to the conflicts that divided us in the past. This is very clear. There is no other alternative," he added.

He said: "A new government will be elected in November in a fully democratic manner. It is important that, at that time, power will be handed over to reliable, fully democratic men who will give guarantees to all."

The president stressed that during his 4 years in office, the economy has acquired some stability and has grown by a rate that surpasses that of other countries in the region.

"We did not move backward in any area, and in some areas we made more progress than in others," he said.

He said that Uruguay cannot be isolated in a continent that is experiencing crisis, stressing that the foreign debt was not allowed to paralyze the country.

He added: "We have managed to avoid hyperinflation and the inflationary spiral, the evil effects of an uncertain exchange rate situation, and the consequences of a crisis in the banking sector. These had already become evident with bankruptcies that could have caused a long recession."

The president stressed that institutional conflicts have been avoided and that a solution has been found to the indebtedness of the agrarian and industrial sector. These were problems "that seemed to be paralyzing" the country.

He said, however, that fewer achievements than expected were realized, but he stressed that "we have together avoided major evils."

He finally called upon the people "to not fold their arms," "to look after our accomplishments and to recognize their real value," and "to defend institutional stability and the economic order."

Economy Minister Returns From IDB Meeting

PY2702131489 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0830 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] Economy and Finance Minister Ricardo Zerbino has returned to Montevideo after attending the IDB governors meeting in the United States.

Zerbino reported that financial assistance to Uruguay is normal and added that he will soon have news regarding several new programs. Zerbino also said that the agreement for capitalizing the IDB is going well.

Frigate Purchased From France Commissioned

PY2302214489 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0311 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] Montevideo, 22 Feb (EFE)—A new frigate, which was purchased in December 1988, was commissioned in the Uruguayan Navy today. This is another step in a policy, implemented in 1981, of replacing old U.S.-made ships with more modern French-made ships.

The frigate "General Artigas," which arrived in Montevideo from the French port of Lorient, will replace another frigate of the same name that was built in the United States in 1943 and transferred to Uruguay in 1952.

The new frigate was commissioned in the French Navy until 1988 with the name of "Victor Schoelcher."

The 6,630-man Uruguayan Navy operates a total of 19 ships, 2 of which are tankers used to transport petroleum consumed by Uruguay.

Three 190-ton displacement patrol craft, which were launched in 1981, were also purchased from France.

The new frigate "General Artigas" is fitted with two 100-mm automatic guns, two 30-mm single guns, and two 500-mm triple antisubmarine weapons for torpedoes.

The original missile launching pad was removed after the frigate was purchased by the Uruguayan Navy.

The frigate has a displacement of 2,000 tons; is 103 meters in lenght, 11.5 meters in width, and 4.2 meters in draft; and has a top speed of 25 knots. Its complement is 184 men, 24 more than its forerunner.

Venezuela

Perez Comments on Current Disturbances

Creditors Blamed for Riots

PA0203143389 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0808 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Madrid, 2 Mar (EFE)—Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez today blamed creditor countries and banks for the riots that have rocked his country in recent days and that, according to police sources, have already resulted in more than 200 deaths.

In a telephone interview with the Mexican television newscast "Eco-Galavision," which is transmitted by satellite and can be seen in this capital, Perez said "the policy that the big industrialized nations have established to force us to pay our debts under irrational conditions" is the cause of the conflict. He noted: "We have no choice but to inform the creditor countries of their responsibility in the already existing possibility of destabilization in the democratic processes of Latin America." Perez, who was sworn in as president of his country on 2 February, said Venezuela uses more than 50 percent of the country's resources to service the foreign debt and has had to decrease expenditures on social assistance programs. He said his government will not suspend the measures that provoked the riots—least of all the increase in prices of staple items. He characterized these measures as "essential for reaching the objectives" that his administration has set. He noted: "If we do not secure changes in the way our foreign debt is being treated, we will not be able to achieve anything."

President Perez then cautioned "the big democratic nations" that "if they are really interested in democracy in Latin America, they must permit discussions on rational and honorable conditions" for paying the foreign debt.

Perez said he fears that if these conditions are not supported, the Latin American countries will fall prey "to unmanageable situations and the democratic process

in Latin America will suffer a setback." "For this reason," he noted, "we have to appeal to the heads of state of the big nations. We have a common responsibility."

The Venezuelan president added: "Latin American leaders must acknowledge the errors we have made in managing our economies and make the necessary rectifications." He said: "The industrialized nations must analyze the situation to see how the debt can be paid without sacrificing the well-being of our people and without creating political instability. In exchange for that, we would have no objection to accepting IMF standards."

President Perez also said that "approximately 70 people died" and about 300 were injured as a result of the riots. Police sources, however, have said that more than 200 people have died. Perez said the current state of emergency will be lifted "in a matter of days."

Miraflores News Conference

PA0203203389 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 1707 GMT 2 Mar 89

[News conference by President Carlos Andres Perez with unidentified reporters outside Miraflores Presidential Palace, Caracas, on 2 March—recorded]

[Text] [Perez] I am satisfied with the manner in which the people of Caracas have responded to the call for calm and responsible behavior that I made on television on 28 February. I am also very satisfied with the behavior shown by the Venezuelan Armed Forces.

At this time, I am in a position to announce that the entire country has returned to its normal behavior. The way in which the private sector has coordinated with the public sector, the Development Ministry, Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Ministry, and Health and Social Welfare Ministry to restore supplies in Caracas; with the Transportation and Communications Ministry; and with the Energy and Mines Ministry enables us to state now that the supply of all items is well on the way to becoming normal, to satisfy all of the country's activities. In terms of fully restoring transportation services, we still have a number of deficiencies, because of a certain amount of fear among some transportation owners. However, this fear is being overcome, and transportation owners are gradually meeting the need for transportation services.

The supply of gasoline has been fully restored, and arrivals of trucks in Caracas bringing food supplies has been restored almost completely. Also, supplies have been doubled to compensate for past shortages. I feel very satisfied by these facts, although I am deeply concerned and saddened by the damage caused to Caracas and, above all, by the loss of human lives—the number of dead and of injured persons in our hospitals. The majority of the injured—the Internal Affairs minister will provide exact figures, probably tomorrow—sustained their injuries as a result of the damage caused by people who stormed grocery stores and other businesses in Caracas. This is a regrettable and very painful incident, which provides a great lesson for Venezuelans and for the government.

[Reporter] When do you feel the emergency could end?

[Perez] For all practical purposes, the emergency has ended; however, the government is conducting investigations and intelligence operations to determine certain unclear situations. There is no doubt that after the process that caused the explosion in Caracas' low-income sections, there were a series of events that were provoked and directed, and the perpetrators need to be severely punished.

[Reporter] Are you referring to common or [words indistinct] crimes?

[Perez] I think it is a mixture of common crimes and the misguided doings of subversives who still do not accept that Venezuela is a free and democratic country where there is no room for these kinds of acts.

[Reporter] Are there many foreigners among those detained?

[Perez] All of this is being determined, because it is good for the country to have precise knowledge of the events that occurred, so rumors and false information do not replace the true facts. Regarding the foreigners in detention, we are still establishing their how many there are and taking fingerprints to verify their stories and identities. All of the foreigners found to have been involved will be deported from this country.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct].

[Perez] I am going to conduct a general tour of Caracas to gain first-hand knowledge of the situation. I am going to make my tour in a helicopter to cover more ground. Later, I will travel by car to those places I believe I should visit in person.

[Reporter] Mr President, what should our country's various sectors—especially the most powerful ones—make of these events?

[Perez] I have already commented on the matter in my address to the nation: It is necessary for us to realize all sectors must make sacrifices. We face an evil inclination toward profits—large profits—without taking into account the harsh realities faced by the masses and the economic situation we are going through.

In any case, the example set by FEDECAMARAS [Federation of Associations and Chambers of Commerce and Industry], which reached an agreement with its workers,

and by the CTV [Confederation of Venezuelan Workers], which actively sought an agreement, is encouraging, because it highlights the fact that where goodwill prevails, agreements can be reached, no matter how divergent the interests of workers, industrialists, and businessmen in general. We find this situation interesting. Nonetheless, we are well aware there is an interest in speculation, even among middle and lower sectors, concerning marketing. Today, for example, in Catia neighborhood, where all businesses are operating normally, residents identified four storekeepers who were speculating with prices. Authorities decided to close their stores and arrest them.

[Reporter] How long will constitutional guarantees be suspended?

[Perez] I am not looking backward, I am looking toward the future. We must correct all the mistakes—all the omissions—that we have made. We must use the current situation for Venezuela's benefit. I have the best intention and unbendable resolve to work to attain social justice, to attain benefits for the sectors with the least resources, and to reach a clear understanding with producers—because without them we cannot attain a decided and firm growth for the benefit of Venezuelans.

[Reporter] Will the investigation continue?

[Perez] The investigation will certainly continue.

[Reporter] How long will classes be suspended?

[Perez] I believe classes can now resume. I believe that school activities in the metropolitan area can be resumed on Monday—above all because transportation must return to normal.

[Reporter] What about the curfew, Mr President?

[Perez] What? What?

[Reporter] What about the curfew?

[Perez] We will have to discuss this with the Armed Forces because normalcy has been restored. We must make sure those few people interested in disrupting order and going against our democratic process do not avail themselves of the nervousness that still prevails in the city to create inconvenient situations. Thus, the curfew will be progressively reduced until it is eliminated—when we are sure of everything. We do not want to take hasty measures; we want to guarantee complete normalcy for the citizens.

[Reporter] Mr President, you are the third president who has suspended guarantees [in Venezuela]. What does this mean for you?

[Perez] The Constitution is the country's basic instrument, and it establishes the limits of our authority. The executive branch has been given that authority for occasions when it is considered necessary and convenient. The measure was adopted for, not against, the citizens, and I believe all Venezuelans—those in Caracas, above all—today agree that we acted diligently and strictly, without exceeding ourselves, in implementing restrictive measures to guarantee and attain tranquility in the country and in urban areas following the grave incidents that occurred in this city on Monday and Tuesday. This proves the serious and cautious way in which the government is acting concerning the situation. We did what we had to do. The economic sector, labor sector, and other sectors have clearly stated their views; I hope the political opposition also understands. The opposition is indispensable and necessary in a democracy. Controversies are the very essence of our democratic life, but cooperation and sincerity are equally important for our citizens when we confront situations like the one we have experienced.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Perez] Fortunately, the Armed Forces have given us extraordinary proof of their loyalty to the country and of their organization and discipline. You should know that 6,000 Armed Forces members were transferred to Caracas in barely 12 hours. This proves the extraordinary mobilization capability and diligence of the air, land, and naval forces.

Continued Reportage on Disturbances

Government Restricts Media

PA0203012589 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1903 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Caracas, 1 Mar (EFE)—The Venezuelan Government today began to apply various methods of censorship on the national and foreign media to prevent the dissemination of news on the bloody disturbances that have taken place in Venezuela since Monday.

Venezuelan radio and television stations, apparently at the request of government authorities, have reduced their reports on the incidents of looting and rioting which have resulted in almost 200 deaths.

On Tuesday, Spanish television correspondents had difficulty transmitting their video reports abroad. Today, even though the correspondents have not officially been forbidden from reporting news, they were not granted access to the satellite transmission system, after being given various excuses for the denied access.

Police organizations have also stopped providing the media with information on the ongoing disturbances in Caracas, in which at least 15 people were killed today.

According to official sources, the authorities have imposed a censorship on "the free expression of thought" as of today and until further notice. This has been done, the sources claim, to prevent the dissemination of nonofficial news from increasing the violent wave of protests rocking the country.

Government spokesmen explained that the government has forbidden the free expression of thought as of today, either "oral or written, by any media source. News may be disseminated only after review by the authorities."

A police spokesman who had previously supplied information on the disturbances told EFE that from now on, only the Interior Ministry is authorized to provide information on the subject. However, the ministry avoided discussing the current situation in the country, explaining that its press office "is not open today."

Venezuelan radio and television sources told EFE that their newscasts cover mostly government information and calls to the people to stop and think so that in this way they can help the country return to a state of normality.

Newspaper reporters told EFE that their articles are basically guided by a "nonsensational" criteria, adding that they are not being subjected to censorship.

A spokesman for EL UNIVERSAL, a Caracas newspaper, also told us that the newspaper "has not received censorship orders from the government nor are there government officials controlling the material being prepared for tomorrow's edition."

An EL UNIVERSAL spokesman added that the newspaper he represents has always followed the lines of truth and objectivity and that "it will publish all news without sensationalizing it."

The newspapers had to cut down the number of issues printed today as a result of the curfew implemented last night at 2000 (0000 GMT) since the mass transportation system is not working, making it impossible for employees to get to work. In many areas of the city, it was virtually impossible to get a newspaper, and long lines of people were seen trying, in vain, to get a newspaper at the newsstands.

The right of freedom of expression and other individual rights guaranteed by the Constitution, like the rights of assembly and travel, inviolability of home, arrest without a warrant, and transfer of all property, will remain suspended in principle for the next 10 days, after which the parliament will determine whether it is necessary to extend or abolish the emergency measures.

Statement by Defense Minister

PA0103223389 Caracas Domestic Service in Spanish 2148 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Statement by Defense Minister General Italo del Valle Alliegro; date, place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] As defense minister, it is my duty to inform the entire national and international community that the Armed Forces are in control of the situation that erupted in the past 48 hours, and that there is peace and quiet throughout the country, except for the Federal District, where there are still small concentrated areas of disturbance.

The suspension of guarantees has undoubtedly helped restore calm, as has the curfew that remains in effect from 1800 through 0600 throughout the country for as long as the emergency measures remain in effect.

People who need safe-conducts may go to the Public Relations Directorate of the Defense Ministry to obtain them. Similarly, medical personnel, in view of their professional duties, will be able to transit freely on presentation of the appropriate identification.

However, I want to emphasize and reiterate that the restoration of calm was a result not only of the actions of the Venezuelan Armed Forces, but of the conduct of the Venezuelan people, who are demanding enforcement of their right to peace and quiet, because that is what our people are accustomed to. We have a democratic system in which any disagreement or any controversy can be resolved favorably for all parties through dialogue and joint efforts. For this reason, we cannot allow—and the Armed Forces cannot allow—minorities that do not wish to understand this fact to unleash a wave of unrest throughout the country.

Therefore, I ask all Venezuelans to cooperate with their Armed Forces which, throughout history, have proven to be dedicated, democratic, and convinced that our democratic system is the country's best attribute. For this reason, these Armed Forces have a commitment to service and a desire to be useful, and they are structurally democratic. This leads us to comply with all our duties as established by the laws of the republic.

Cooperate with your Armed Forces, have confidence in them, and this situation will be resolved sooner rather than later. Thank you very much.

Additional Measures Announced

PA0103222089 Caracas Domestic Service in Spanish 2116 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Statement by Interior Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] The general situation in the country is practically normal. Outbreaks of disturbances, generated by small anarchic groups, are reported in Caracas only. These

small groups want to prolong the unfortunate incidents of looting that have shaken the country in the past 48 hours. I assure you, on behalf of the national government, that the authorities are quickly containing these latest outbreaks of violence. The suspension of constitutional rights and the curfew are still in effect, meaning that those citizens who are erroneously bent on encouraging disturbances and looting—which jeopardize Venezuelans' right to live in peace—will feel the full force of the provisions contained in the state of emergency decreed by the national government. Restoring normalcy quickly enables citizens to immediately resume their daily activities. The national government decided that as long as the current suspension of constitutional rights remains in effect, public offices will open from 0800 to 1400. We urge the private sector to adhere to this schedule to expedite compliance with the curfew. Aware of his responsibilities to Venezuela and Venezuelans, the president issued several decrees during a Council of Ministers meeting seeking to improve the standard of living of lower income Venezuelans.

These decrees include the following:

1. The increase in wages and salaries for the public sector goes into effect as of today;

2. The increase in wages and salaries, which the Venezuelan Federation of Associations and Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Confederation of Venezuelan Workers had agreed upon, was approved. This means that all private sector workers will receive a monthly increase of 1,000 bolivares;

3. It was agreed to control the prices of products that make up the basic group of goods and services;

4. A Consumer Protection Office was authorized to incorporate neighborhood groups, such as consumer boards, so that society and the national government can ensure that there are no speculation and hoarding;

5. It was also agreed to (?establish) a national council against poverty. This agency will be in charge of dictating policies benefiting low-income sectors and ending this social plight;

6. It was agreed to conduct a total reorganization of the Venezuelan Institute of Social Security to guarantee workers appropriate medical attention.

The national government is ensuring social peace and the welfare of all Venezuelans. Good afternoon.

Disturbances Continue in Caracas

PA0103204289 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1950 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Caracas, 1 Mar (EFE)—There were new disturbances and deaths today in the Venezuelan capital, where security forces have been unable to quell the riots in which nearly 200 people have been killed since Monday.

Although the situation has greatly improved in cities in the interior and in Caracas with regard to looting and the burning of vehicles, police spokesmen today reported that Army and police forces were exchanging gunfire with groups of rioters in various parts of the capital.

Police sources told EFE that at least 15 people were killed in today's clashes. These sources later refused to provide any more details because of the press censorship that the government began to apply to these reports today.

Although there has been no official confirmation, reliable sources said the Caracas morgue is "filled" with bodies after the 3 days of violence that the capital has experienced.

Shooting was heard throughout the day in several areas of the city, although in some areas, such as the area near San Martin Avenue, police used tear gas on the demonstrators.

The protests began in the wake of a 90-percent increase in gasoline and food prices and bus fares, but they now seem to have turned into real popular uprisings that the government has blamed on "the resentment and frustration" of poor sectors neglected by society.

According to reliable sources consulted by EFE, in several of the poorest Caracas neighborhoods, where not even the police dare to enter unless it is to carry out major operations, the confrontations have become "warlike."

In the 23 January, Cementerio, La Vega, and Petare neighborhods, the Army and police had difficulty controlling the excessive actions of groups described as antisocial, with whom the Army exchanged gunfire.

Thousands of slum-dwellers living in shanty homes on the sides of hills in these areas shot at security forces with revolvers and even rifles. For the security forces, these slums are as hostile and dense as the jungle.

On Monday and yesterday, hundreds of cars were looted and set on fire in Caracas' downtown area and poor districts, and in the country's main cities, such as Maracaibo, Valencia, Barquisimeto, and Merida.

Press reports say in the interior cities, the situation is under control; in some cases, such as today in Valencia, the police and Army started arresting looters.

According to witnesses who spoke to EFE, in Valencia, some 154 km from the capital, the authorities raided numerous houses looking for looted goods.

Communiques issued by the governors of the states say calm has nearly completely returned to the areas in the southern part of the country, outside urban and industrial coastal areas, where there were not as many disturbances.

Caracas was paralyzed today because of a lack of public transportation and the closing of schools, shops, banks, gas stations, and private businesses.

Main streets and avenues remained nearly as deserted as yesterday, and pedestrians gathered earlier as the 12-hour curfew began at 1800 (2200 GMT), 2 hours earlier than yesterday.

Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, who spoke yesterday to the country asking for understanding for his economic austerity program—the reason for the violent protests—yesterday proclaimed a curfew and suspeded individual constitutional rights to ease the disturbances.

Situation 'Returning to Normal'

PA0203125489 Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 1220 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] There were violent disturbances in the 23 January neighborhood and other sections of the capital last night. The victims include a metropolitan police officer and an Army major. The number of persons injured is estimated at 400. Hundreds of people have been arrested. A textile factory was destroyed by fire in La Pastora yesterday.

The authorities reported that many foreigners were arrested during the disturbances. It was also reported that many looters were beheaded when they broke into store showcases.

We repeat, the situation in Caracas is quickly returning to normal. Buses are back on the streets and drivers are again providing this important public service. The city is showing signs of returning to complete normalcy. Traffic is gradually returning to normal in the streets of Caracas.

Let us continue to cooperate so that total normalcy is reestablished in the capital city, as has already occurred in the country's interior. The subway is also operating normally from Caricuao to downtown and from there to Los Dos Caminos. We remind people that the banks will be open from 0900 to 1300.

Airlines Operating Despite Curfew

PA0203180489 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 1628 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] VIASA, AEROPOSTAL, and AVENSA continue to operate their domestic and international flights during the time not affected by the curfew—in other words, from 0800 to 1630. This will allow travelers to use the airport without any problem.

Regarding the arrival of VIASA night flights, the Transport and Communication Ministry will provide buses and safe-conduct passes to travelers. Upon arrival in Caracas, they will be transferred to major hotels until they can proceed to their final destination.

Proper precautions have also been taken. Foreign tourism operators have been warned that they should abstain from organizing tours to our country until the situation returns to normal. Any questions about flight schedules should be checked with the reservation lines in Caracas and Maiquetia.

[Begin recording] [VIASA spokesman] We will have several daily flights throughout our nation and in the areas with the most traffic. In other words, we expect to meet the demands—which we know are reduced these days. Nevertheless, we want to emphasize the efforts exerted by our personnel to be on the job in a timely manner so flights may depart on schedule. Our flights have operated on schedule, and all we will have to do is eliminate flights that are during the curfew. Thus, the people will be able to arrive at their homes within the hours specified by the Defense Ministry.

[VIASA President Luis Ignacio Mendoza] VIASA is a public service company, so it must provide transportation for its passengers in the most efficient way possible, despite all the problems we are experiencing. We adopted measures yesterday afternoon, and all the international flights scheduled to depart in the morning have been delayed 2 hours. Since the curfew ends at 0600, passengers will be able to leave their houses at that time, travel to the airport, and have the opportunity to board their flights. [end recording]

Troops Arrive in Caracas

PA0203181389 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 1748 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Caracas, 2 Mar (REUTER)—Some 10,000 soldiers arrived in Caracas today to reinforce security, while sporadic shootings continued to be reported during the 4th day of disturbances caused by an increase in prices. The disturbances have resulted in 200 deaths.

Judicial and technical police sources said at least 20 people died last night and this morning in shootouts between security forces and sharpshooters in the El Valle and 23 January neighborhoods.

Unofficial Death Toll at 500

PA0203221289 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2108 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Caracas, 2 Mar (EFE)—An EFE survey among journalists who visited morgues in several Caracas hospitals indicates that the death toll resulting from the disturbances that began on Monday can easily total over 500 people.

Although the official figures released place the death toll at more than 100, and this morning's papers raised that figure to close to 200, people who have visited hospital morgues in the outskirts of Caracas reported to have seen numerous corpses piled up in several places. Over 100 bodies have been counted in Petare's Perez Carrero Hospital, and in the Caita, Pescozon, and Lidice hospitals, our sources report.

Bloody incidents were reported in all neighborhoods between demonstrators and policemen and soldiers. The security forces drove through the streets in armored vehicles to enforce compliance with the curfew declared on Tuesday. Amid tight security, crowds of people went to the hospitals to identify their relatives among the dead, and in some hospitals there have been new outbreaks of violence. [passage omitted]

Many journalists are openly setting the death toll at 500. The partial normalization of some of the city's activities permitted an assessment of the scope of the social explosion unleashed by the government's economic program. [passage omitted]

IMF Letter of Intent Explained, Reviewed

PA0303033889 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0057 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] The media received today a copy of the letter of intent signed 2 days ago between the Venezuelan Government and the IMF. The document has 24 pages and includes 35 points listing the Venezuelan president's economic policies.

The letter of intent states in its first pages the economic and financial reasons that led the government to resort to the IMF. Among the reasons are those related to the significant loss of reserves and the lack of stability in the economy, which led the government to call for a new, substantial devaluation of the bolivar.

The document also states that in view of the drop in oil prices, the government proposed to reduce inflation by limiting the net loss of government reserves without undermining economic growth. This policy began 2 years ago. However, pressures in the foreign exchange market led the bolivar's exchange rate in the free market to drop to 38 bolivares per dollar at the end of the year.

Likewise, international reserves dropped by approximately $4.5 billion in 1988. This is equivalent to the balance of payments deficit.

The letter states that the new administration, which began on 2 February 1989, recognizes the need to implement an extensive program of economic adjustments to face the huge imbalances both internally and externally; to take advantage of the economic opportunities in the country; to diversify the economy; and to maintain economic growth in the medium term. Venezuela's economic situation had reached a critical point at the beginning of 1989 because of structural problems and lack of flexibility, which had accumulated in the last few years. This situation forced the government to reorganize its economic policies in the shortest time possible.

Point 7 of the letter of intent states that the government's program of adjustments for the medium term calls for a series of important structural reforms in the taxation, foreign exchange, and commercial fields and in the financial sector, which began this year and will be continued in the next few years.

The government intends to include new initiatives for reducing the foreign debt. Moreover, the letter states that the medium term policies developed by the Venezuelan Government are aimed at: 1) increasing domestic savings; 2) promoting the influx of foreign capital; and 3) diversifying the economy. This would allow the country to achieve an economic growth in the nonoil sector of 4-5 percent, in real terms, during the medium term following the initial transitional phase, which would last approximately 2 years.

As for a single exchange rate, the letter points out that with the establishment of a single and flexible exchange rate system and by a substantial reduction of the protective measures provided for in the program of adjustments for the medium term, nontraditional exports are expected to increase considerably, and the balance of payments deficit is expected to decrease.

As for the private debt payment commitments, financial agreements with international commercial banks are expected. These may include new loans; immediate refinancing of the debt; and other options that can allow a reduction of the private foreign debt.

Point 13 states that with the purpose of promoting the expansion of private sector activities and with the purpose of strengthening the factors that will affect prices following the commercial and exchange reforms, the authorities intend to eliminate the public sector deficit during the next 2 years and to achieve a surplus in the medium term.

To increase public sector savings, public utility rate subsidies will be eliminated in 1989; electricity and fuel prices will be increased; nonoil revenues will be increased through fiscal reforms, which include a general tax on sales; and the financial situation of public sector enterprises will be improved through rate increases, cost reductions, evaluation of investment programs, and the privatization of some government enterprises.

The main aspect of the government's economic program is the establishment of a single floating exchange rate for the bolivar. Under the new single exchange rate, the Central Bank of Venezuela would intervene to control erratic fluctuations of the inter-bank exchange market.

Another important aspect is the elimination of most tax exemptions in March. Also, the government created a new tax rate schedule that goes into effect in April 1989.

The current price control system, which mostly favors food, medicine, and urban bus fares, was restructured. The prices of seven products—corn flour, rice, pasta, sardines, powdered milk, animal feed, and fertilizer—will be subsidized through a special fund.

As for salaries, the letter of intent explains that the government will follow a prudent policy to help foster competitiveness, raise employment, and reduce inflationary pressure. No new salary increases will be made during 1989 except for those involving public employees who are under collective bargaining agreements. To help protect low-income workers, especially during the period when most of the economic adjustments will be implemented, the government believes that certain goods and services should be subsidized.

The government plans to reduce the public sector deficit. It is expected that the central government's revenues will increase as a result of an increase in the cigarette tax, which was announced on 20 February 1989, and an increase on liquor prices, which will go into effect on 15 March.

The authorities also are trying to modify tax collection procedures. The central government's spending will be redirected toward social services. Expenditures for maintaining and modernizing the structural infrastructure of the public sector will be increased.

Spending on large projects will be reduced to ensure that payments for goods and services produced by state enterprises are made on time. As for the state's aluminum enterprises, namely Alcasa [Aluminio del Caroni, S.A.] and Venalum [Venezolana de Aluminios, S.A], the prices of the goods sold by those enterprises in the domestic market will be increased by 30 percent in April. Another increase will follow in August, totaling an average increase of 40 percent for the entire year.

This letter of intent also reflects the importance the government places on the free market. That is why controls on bank interest rates, except for interest on agricultural loans and home mortgages, were eliminated.

Government Requests Postponement of Debt Payment
PA0203191789 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 1823 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Caracas, 2 Mar (REUTER)—Caracas' two principal newspapers today reported Venezuela has communicated to the IMF that it will suspend the payment of its public and private debt until 30 September.

The newspaper EL NACIONAL published a copy of the letter in which Finance Minister Eglee Iturbe de Blanco and Central Bank President Pedro Tinoco outline their plan to IMF Director Michel Camdessus.

According to EL NACIONAL, the dated 28 February letter accompanies a letter of intention addressed to the IMF in which Venezuela requests a stand-by loan and access to a credit from the IMF's Extended Fund Facility (EFF).

The letter does not mention the amounts, but Venezuelan officials had previously said the government intends to obtain an initial $1.3 billion credit, to eventually reach $4.5 billion in credit under the EFF.

On 17 January, Venezuela had suspended the payment of its public debt for 3 months. Last week, Tinoco said in a newspaper interview the country would also suspend its private debt payments.

However, foreign bankers consulted here in Venezuela said they have not received any official information on the suspension of private payments. Venezuela is seeking to restructure its $32 billion foreign debt after suffering an oil price drop last year.

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